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# THE JERUSALEM POST



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**In today's Business Supplement**  
★ The Tel Aviv bull market  
★ Measuring health-care costs  
★ Yehuda Harel's "new kibbutz"  
**Money**  
THE JERUSALEM POST BUSINESS SUPPLEMENT

## Arafat 'furious' at Netanyahu delaying bid

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was said to be "furious" yesterday at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal of a spring 1999 date for the last IDF pull-back in the West Bank. Yesterday's negotiating sessions failed once again to end in agreement on a US compromise formula on pullbacks, the conclusion of which is likely to determine whether another summit will take place between the two leaders, officials say. Speaking briefly to reporters in Gaza last night, the Palestinian spokesman for the talks, Marwan Kanafani, said, "The meeting was extremely tense. The statements that were made today destroyed all hopes that we could reach an agreement" (that would enable a meeting between Arafat and Netanyahu). US special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross held several hours of extensive discussions last night with Arafat. Jerusalem was awaiting word about the success of those talks to see whether there was sufficient reason to warrant another snap meeting between the two leaders. On Monday night US-Israeli talks continued until 4 a.m. Officials indicate that the US has presented a compromise date to break the current impasse on when Israel will make the third pullback in the territories. The Palestinians want that pullback, which they believe will give them the bulk of the West Bank, by September. Netanyahu adviser David Bar-Ilan has said that Israel wanted the third pullback to occur by spring 1999, which would be timed to coincide with the Oslo deadline for completing talks on the final disposition of the territories. "When the final status talks are set to end we will implement the last redeployment because we will then know in which areas there will be a Palestinian Authority," Bar-Ilan said. Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour rejected the idea. "This is an irresponsible proposal...the agreement specifically states that the last stage of further redeployments from the West Bank be completed by September 7, 1997," Asfour told Reuters. It remains unclear whether the US proposal would be midway between the two dates - summer 1998 - or would be closer to the date preferred by one of the sides. Meanwhile, senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry official Nabil Fahmy left Gaza on Monday, after almost a week's stay. Noting that Fahmy's stay has coincided with a harder position by Arafat, Israelis have insisted that Fahmy had been urging Arafat to take a tough line. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, however, has rejected this allegation.

## Flu not fooled by high temperatures

JUDY SIEGEL

THE elusive, annoying and sometimes deadly flu virus functions according to the calendar, not the thermometer. Influenza has a field day in the winter months, even when the temperatures - as they have been for weeks - are more like those in May than January. Dr. Amos Yinnon, a senior infectious disease expert at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, says scientists have not yet discovered why the virus spreads in winter without connection to cold weather. They do know that the microbe, which was described by the 4th century BCE Greek physician Hippocrates, keeps mutating into new strains, requiring annual vaccinations for those at high risk. The virus thrives when windows are closed and rooms are not aired. If somebody with flu sneezes on your sandwich, you don't have to worry about catching it, as it doesn't survive the digestive system. It is transmitted by the aerosol route, from the throat or nose. Scientists can't say how long it survives in the air or on an object. But, if somebody coughs or sneezes onto a computer keyboard, or the keys of an automatic teller, or a phone receiver, or into your face, you should start worrying. Better still, before exposure, get the vaccine - which protects about three-quarters of all persons exposed, says Yinnon. It misses when the actual strain of flu that hits you is a bit different from the ones used as the basis for the current year's vaccine (which is based on cases reported months before) or if the immunization didn't trigger a protective reaction by your immune system. Although busy general practitioners sometimes interchangeably use the words "flu" and a "cold," there are clear differences in symptoms. A cold can mean a cough, runny nose and some fever, but you can go to work in spite of it. Flu is a systemic disease, with a sore throat, shivering, muscle pains, weakness, headache and high fever - and you will be too sick to go to work. Antibiotics won't kill the virus. The symptoms usually peter out in five days. But children or adults with a chronic illness or weak immune system, and all those over 65, should be vaccinated, as they are at risk for complications, says Yinnon.

**Cabinet to consider economic reforms**  
THE cabinet is to consider major structural reforms to the economy today. Among the sectors facing changes are public transportation, communications, water, housing and agriculture. Full report, Page 8



Rescue workers prepare to evacuate one of the victims of yesterday's Mahane Yehuda crash. (Issac Harari)

## One dead, 6 hurt as Arab youth crashes car into Jerusalem store

JON IMMANUEL

A 15-year-old porter in the Mahane Yehuda market took his employer's car from an alley off Jaffa Road, careened across the main road and crashed into a burekas bakery next to the market's entrance, injuring seven people, one fatally. Police said they believe it was an accident and not a terrorist attack. Yosef Cohen, 72, a beggar who came up by bus every day from Beersheba, was sitting on a chair outside the shop and was fatally injured. The chair was flattened. Four customers inside the shop were pinned between the car and the counter. Eli Yaron, behind the counter, saw the car coming at him, leapt aside and was saved. Another person was hit just before the crash. Rachel Hanania, who runs a religious artifacts shop in the alley where the car was parked, said, "The car came shooting past. It hit

a poor man on the crosswalk and then the car was hit by another coming up Jaffa road. That is why he did not drive straight into the market. I understood immediately this was a suicide attack. I ran inside and locked the door." The youth, who cannot be identified because he is a minor, lives in Kalandia refugee camp. His father, who works as a laborer in Jerusalem, has no security record.

Jamal Saed, a resident of the camp, said the family "is not political as far as we know and [the boy] is too young to be political." Jerusalem Police Commander Arye Amit said last night that "We are checking in both directions but leaning towards an accident." He said the youth "did not know the difference between the gas and the brake pedal." There were no brake marks on the road. (Continued on Page 9)

## Swiss seek 'to make amends'

BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

SWITZERLAND made certain attempts yesterday to placate Israel following a breakdown in relations with Jewish organizations over the issue of Holocaust victims' accounts in Swiss banks. But the Swiss cabinet refused to apologize for remarks made by the outgoing president that Jewish calls for a compensation fund were "extortion and blackmail." Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti telephoned Foreign Minister David Levy, saying that he wanted to make amends for the remarks made by former president Jean-Pascal Delamuraz. Foreign Ministry sources said in Jerusalem. Cotti informed Levy that he planned to hold a press conference to explain that there had been "a misunderstanding." He said that he would circulate two documents - one on the establishment of a Holocaust memorial fund and the other, a "correction" to Delamuraz's remarks. Cotti stressed that Switzerland was interested in maintaining its good relations with Israel and extended an invitation to Levy to visit Bern. During the conversation, Levy told Cotti that the remarks had been seen in Israel as "a slap in the face to the Jewish people and the state of Israel," a Levy aide said. Earlier yesterday, Swiss Ambassador Pierre Monod met with Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg at the ambassador's request. Monod reportedly told Burg about the current discussions and contacts within the Swiss establishment over Delamuraz's remarks. The Jewish organizations have no demands or requests but they "cannot, from a personal point of view, sit around the table with persons who have refrained from criticizing Delamuraz's remarks," Burg explained. From the moral point of view, Burg said, it was not possible to sit down with persons who had insulted the memory of the six million. The moves came on the heels of reports from Zurich that Swiss bank share transfers on the stock market had declined Monday after the Jewish organizations threatened a boycott unless the Swiss paid restitution for the alleged wartime profiteering. But despite the diplomatic moves and expectations in Jerusalem, Cotti merely said in his press conference that his government wanted to use the dormant bank accounts to create a Holocaust memorial fund, Reuters reported. The federal council, Switzerland's cabinet, also ignored the demands that it rebuke Delamuraz - who has since become economics minister - for his remarks. "There was no apology by the federal council because the remarks were misunderstood and led to excessive reactions," the government spokesman, Achille Casanova, told reporters after the seven ministers conferred by phone for 90 minutes. In its statement, the cabinet also criticized the threats by Jewish groups to call a boycott of Swiss banks and said they endangered joint efforts to track the Jewish

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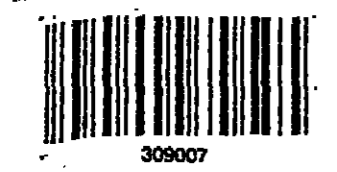
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# Peace Now protests at tomb of Baruch Goldstein

HERB KEINON

PEACE Now held a protest vigil at Baruch Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba yesterday, calling for the removal of the tomb to a more inconspicuous site inside the Green Line.

"This site has been turned into a holy site," said Peace Now political secretary Mossy Raz. "Seven days after Noam Friedman's attack, we thought this was a good time to come here and point out that this site is leading others to follow in Goldstein's path."

Goldstein's grave is located in the Meir Kabane Park at the entrance to Kiryat Arba. It is set in the center of a tile floor, and there are bookcases at the site, as well as a faucet for ritual hand washing. The tombstone on the grave refers to Goldstein as a "martyr."

Goldstein killed 29 people and wounded 125 in the Machpela Cave in Hebron three years ago.

Raz said Peace Now is representing "most of the people in the country" who want the grave moved, and not turned into a pilgrimage site for the extreme right wing.

When some 20 Peace Now activists came to the site, they were told by a policeman waiting for them that they did not have a permit for a demonstration. Since no permit is

needed for a protest vigil of nine people or less, seven of the activists - carrying a flag - went to the grave and unfurled signs that read "Shame," and "Thou shalt not murder."

The group dispersed about 30 minutes after it arrived.

Police detained one man who allegedly cursed the demonstrators.

Tzuri Popovitch, spokesman for the Kiryat Arba Local Council, called the vigil a "provocation."

Popovitch said that since the IDF ordered that Goldstein be buried in Kiryat Arba, rather than in Hebron where his family requested, the question of moving the grave must go through the IDF. Popovitch said that the local council is willing to talk about moving the grave, but it all must be done with the consent of Goldstein's family.

Last month the Entire Generation Seeks Peace organization received a permit to demonstrate at the site, after turning to the High Court of Justice. Their demonstration, however, was canceled because it was scheduled at a time when the Hebron redeployment seemed imminent, and the IDF was concerned about a confrontation between Kiryat Arba residents and the demonstrators.



Noam Friedman shows police how he aimed his gun and fired at Palestinians last week, during a reenactment in Hebron early yesterday morning. (AP)

## GSS: Mordechai under threat

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

DEFENSE sources close to Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday downplayed the reported increased security around the defense minister, but admitted that extra precautions have been taken in light of threats from radical right-wing elements.

"I'm not saying the General Security Service has put any more bodyguards on him or anything, but they have increased the awareness around him and taken steps to improve his protection," said one source.

They added that there have not been any concrete threats on Mordechai such as letters or telephone calls.

Lately, and on GSS orders, Mordechai has donned a bullet-proof vest or flak vest which looks like a windbreaker during his travels in the field.

His residence in the Jerusalem area has been dramatically enhanced with dozens of spot lights

surrounding the house and grounds.

Mordechai, a decorated war hero and no stranger to the battlefield, has in fact confided to his friends that the increased security has regrettably forced him to curtail his social life.

Mordechai's younger sister, Hania Ovadia, told *Yedioth Aharanot* yesterday that the family fears for his life.

"We know that there are lunatics threatening him, and this is very painful for us," she said. "A crazed person might rise up at any moment."

"From the day they appointed Yitzhak defense minister, our hearts have been gripped with fear. In our worst nightmare we never dreamed that things would reach such a low state of threats against my brother's life."

The increased security comes after the GSS assessed that a right-wing Jewish radical may

try to harm Mordechai, *Yedioth* said.

Mordechai is considered a moderate in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. He recently said he wouldn't risk setting the Middle East ablaze "for a few dilapidated buildings in Hebron."

Furthermore, posters have appeared on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway saying "Mordechai will laugh (yitzhak) and the nation is crying." No group has yet taken responsibility for the posters.

Mordechai's media adviser Avi Benyahou said the defense minister wasn't deterred by all the threats.

"He has never been deterred in the past and won't be deterred today or in the future from any threat and will continue to act to advance the security of Israel and the national defense establishment which is serving the people of Israel within the framework of the government's policies and decisions," Benyahou said.

## Barak responds to attacks by Beilin, Ramon

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR leadership candidate Ehud Barak said yesterday his rival MK Yossi Beilin's attacks on him had provided weapons for the Likud's future election campaigns against Labor.

Barak also said he was open to cooperation with MK Haim Ramon, who is considered a more bitter rival, although he is probably not turning for Labor's leadership.

At Beilin's leadership campaign kickoff Monday, he said, in reference to Barak and himself, "this is not a choice between a macho and a neri."

Barak responded yesterday by

saying, "I don't think I'm a macho and it is clear to anyone who knows Beilin that he is no nerd. What he said will cause damage. We should weigh our words carefully before speaking and we would do better not to provide the Likud with weapons for its future campaigns against us."

Beilin had scoffed at Barak's angling toward the political center, claiming there is no such thing, because the elusive "center" disappears on election day and votes for the Likud.

Barak emphasized in response that

he is the one continuing in the late Yitzhak Rabin's way. "Between my consistent way and some wondrous way in which Beilin can bridge between the settlements and the Kfar Yarak Circle [Beilin's dovish group], I prefer the clear, straight highway which is the continuation of Labor's way."

Speaking about the rivalry with Ramon, Barak said "the doors and arms are open to him. Ramon is an asset to Labor and I have no problem whatsoever working with anyone

who doesn't spoil things."

Ramon yesterday denied suggestions that he would do anything to sabotage Barak's way to the prime minister's seat, noting that should Barak be elected party leader he will have no problem working with him. "We don't have bitter past emotional charges like Rabin and Peres had. We have a legitimate argument between us and my criticism of Ehud is not personal."

Ramon added that if Barak sees himself as Rabin's successor, he should join him, Ramon, in pushing for open primaries.

## Showdown expected at today's Labor convention

MICHAL YUDELMAN

A DRAMATIC confrontation between MKs Haim Ramon and Ehud Barak is expected today at Labor's convention, which is to determine whether to hold open or closed primaries for the party's leadership.

Ramon, who said he will announce after the convention at Tel Aviv's Cinemas hall if he intends to run for Labor's leadership, is expected to attack Barak in a stormy address, in an attempt to persuade convention delegates to hold open primaries. However, party sources estimate the convention will opt for closed primaries - for party members only - and therefore it is assumed that Ramon will announce his support for leadership candidate MK Yossi Beilin after the convention.

The convention will open with a political statement by Labor Chairman Shimon Peres. The delegates will then be asked to choose one out of three proposals.

MKs Ephraim Sneh, Ra'anan

Cohen and Moshe Shahal propose closed primaries, restricted to party members who register until 60 days before the showdown. MKs Nissim Zivili and Uri Baran's propose "semi-open" primaries, enabling anyone who declares he or she is not a member in any other party and pays a voting fee up to 30 days before the elections, to vote. Ramon and Beilin propose open primaries in which anyone who pays voting dues can take part until election day itself.

The convention will also determine whether the new party leader will be elected by 40% of the votes, as is the custom today in the party, or by 50% plus one vote, as proposed by Sneh.

Four Labor MKs picked up applications for contending in the party's leadership showdown yesterday. These included Barak, Beilin and Sneh, who have already announced their candidacy, and MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, who is apparently considering running as well.

When Madeleine Albright goes before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning, the Middle East will be low on the list of members' concerns.

Instead, the secretary of state-designate is bound to face questions on a vast array of global issues - not all of them based overseas.

## Mideast not expected to be priority in new Senate

HILLEL KUTTNER WASHINGTON

WHEN Madeleine Albright goes before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning, the Middle East will be low on the list of members' concerns.

Instead, the secretary of state-designate is bound to face questions on a vast array of global issues - not all of them based overseas.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Two charged with smuggling heroin

Two Kfar Yarka men were charged in Haifa District Court yesterday with smuggling nearly a kilo of heroin across the Lebanese border. The state charged the two, Mansur Abu Tarif, 23, and Yussef Gabish, 23, three a sack of money over the border fence to a Lebanese man, who in exchange tossed two packages of drugs over to them. The state has asked for their remand until the end of trial. *lim*

### US, Israel mark 50 years of air links

US Ambassador Marin Ladyk last night took a break from the Hebron negotiations to host a reception at his home marking 50 years of air travel between Israel and the United States. At the TWA-sponsored reception, guests were shown a copy of *The Palestine Post* for January 8, 1947 which carried a front-page news story headlined "Skyway links New York with Lydda airport." TWA sent Joseph R. Vitman, vice president sales and service international, to Israel to mark the occasion alongside its Israel's branch director David Rudner. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Educational TV may ax 'Parpar Nehmad'

After the threats to the country's satire shows, another popular program is facing the axe. *Parpar Nehmad* ("Nice Butterfly") - a clean, educational show for young children - is under threat for lack of funds. MK Tamar Gozansky (Hadash), who chairs the Knesset subcommittee on early childhood, has complained that Educational Television wants to take the program off after 16 years citing cuts in the budget it receives from the Educational Ministry. The program educates towards love, tolerance and friendship and is an entirely Israeli-made product," Gozansky said. "Taking it off the screens will leave the children exposed only to foreign programs filled with violence." *List Collins*

### Jerusalem journalists elect leadership

A new leadership was elected for the Jerusalem Journalists Association yesterday. Elisha Spiegelman of Channel 1 was chosen chairman. Print journalists will be represented by Esther Hecht and Ori Lewis from *The Jerusalem Post*, Amnon Kapelink and Roni Shaked of *Yedioth Aharanot*, and Zvi Lavi of *Globes*. Television representatives are Moshe Friedman, Shmuel Baran, Eli Ribenbach, and Avi Cohen; radio members are Ya'acov Katzav, Menahem Friedman, Gad Ben-Yitzhak, Shabtai Bibi and Efrat Ben-Horin. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Soldier reenacts Hebron shooting

NOAM Friedman, the IDF soldier who opened fire in the Hebron market last week, reenacted the shooting yesterday, telling police his gun first jammed, but he was able to fix it and carry out the attack.

Channel 1 carried footage last night of Friedman reenacting the shooting. "When I first raised the gun, it didn't shoot and I put it down, fixed it and then started shooting," he said during the reenactment, which he carried out at about 2 a.m., accompanied by large army, Border Police and police forces.

He was given an M-16 without the firing pin by police, and he began describing what happened that night. According to Friedman, he came to the site of the shooting twice, but his gun jammed when he initially tried to open fire near Kikar Gross. "It jammed, so I pulled it down and continued towards Beit Romano," he said. He walked down *Shubda Street* towards Beit Romano and tried to get the weapon working again, then returned to Kikar Gross. "I returned and faced the market, put the gun on automatic and pressed the trigger," he explained.

He said he did not remember anything after that. "I heard shots and tried to change magazines, but the soldier was on me already," he said.

Asked why he opened fire, he repeated his earlier claim that "I wanted to stop the agreement on the withdrawal from Hebron."

Friedman reportedly cooperated with police during the reenactment, but muttered phrases like "Hebron, the city of the Patriarchs" and "Hebron forever" as he did so. A police official who followed the reenactment said it "confirmed things that were said during Friedman's earlier interrogation."

He said it proved Friedman did not know how to use his weapon, which, besides the action of the soldiers on duty at the time, was what kept more people from getting hurt. *(lim)*

## Hizbullah intensifies mortar attacks

DAVID RUDGE

HEAVY fighting was reported in the security zone yesterday for the sixth straight day as the recent escalation in hostilities continued.

Hizbullah gunmen fired dozens of mortar rounds at IDF and South Lebanese Army positions and forces in the field in the northeastern sector of the zone.

There were no IDF or SLA casualties in the bombardments, which began in the early morning and prompted exchanges that continued sporadically until the afternoon.

Reports from the region said that residential areas in the Isriyah and Rehan areas also came under fire from the Hizbullah mortars during the exchanges.

There were no reports of any civilian casualties, although the shooting by Hizbullah at villages could give Israel cause to lodge a further complaint with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee.

The five-nation committee is itself continuing discussions that began on Sunday into complaints lodged by Israel and Lebanon over alleged breaches, in several incidents in the past three weeks, of the understandings that ended cross-border fighting during Operation Grapes of Wrath last April.

The committee, composed of representatives from America, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon, is expected to complete its deliberations in the next few days.

A senior Hizbullah official, Hussein Khalil, was quoted in Lebanese newspapers yesterday as saying that the organization was still committed to the April understandings.

He warned of dire consequences, however, if Israel tried to change the rules of the game.

The existence of the committee and especially its make-up has far prevented fighting in the security zone from spreading across the border, although Hizbullah has criticized it as being "toothless and ineffectual."

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved stepmother and aunt

**FEMMIE VAN ESSEN-COHN** 77

formerly of Veenendaal, Holland

The funeral will take place, God willing, today, Wednesday, January 8, 1997 (Tevet 29, 5757), at 11:30 a.m.

It will proceed from the Shamgar funeral parlor, to the Mt. of Olives.

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**Mr. Michel Cukierman**  
and Family  
on the passing of his father

**RAPHAEL CUKIERMAN**  
a devoted friend of the University

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

**YOSEF TZABAN** 77

veteran builder of Jerusalem

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, January 8, 1997 (29 Tevet 5757) at 2 p.m., leaving from the Sanhedria Funeral Home for the Givat Shaul Cemetery. A bus will be available.

Mourning by his:

Son, Yair and Shulamit Tzaban and family  
Daughter, Bruria and Simi Shiloni and family  
Son, Amnon and Mali Tzaban and family

Shiva at the home of Bruria and Simi Shiloni, 6 Rehov Bodenheimer, Kiryat Hayovel, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-642-1746.

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place tonight at 7:30 pm at the Laroume Hotel, Gala Dinner. Visiting Rotarians welcome.

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# Liver transplant patient gives birth

JUDY SIEGEL

A WOMAN who underwent a liver transplant four years ago has given birth to a healthy baby girl, following a pregnancy closely supervised by doctors at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus's new clinic for liver diseases.

Ella Simantov, who had to have an abortion when she developed a serious liver disease during her first pregnancy, is only the third Israeli liver recipient to have given birth.

The woman told Dr. Ran Tur-Kaspa, head of the institute for liver diseases, that she wanted to have a baby. After consulting with Dr. Moshe Hod, head of the hospital's high-risk pregnancy unit, Tur-Kaspa encouraged her to try.

The doctors closely supervised her liver function, and the pregnancy proceeded without any undue problems. She was able to continue taking anti-rejection drugs without affecting the fetus.

In the 38th week, she underwent a cesarean section and delivered her daughter.



Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri (right) attaches the mezuzah to a new Kapat Holim Clalit clinic in the capital's Ramat Shlomo neighborhood, assisted by Clalit director-general Avigdor Kaplan.

# MKs fight to move child's grave closer to parents' home

LIAT COLLINS

SEVERAL MKs have launched a fight to have an eight-year-old boy who died in a car crash buried closer to his family's home, after the Arad rabbinate refused to do so because of alleged questions over his Jewishness.

Alexander Dubrovitzky, the Israeli-born son of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, was buried in Beersheba after dying in the crash on Saturday. His family lives in Arad, but the local rabbinate refused to bury him there, saying there are doubts that his mother, who immigrated here 16 years ago, is Jewish.

Several MKs have joined the fight

to move his grave to a site where his family, which includes a soldier, can visit more easily. Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party) has promised to look into the issue.

Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman had asked Bibi to intervene and inform the family of his promise.

MK Anat Maor (Meretz) registered a protest with the ministry when the affair was first published, asking: "How can it be that the father and eldest son are fit to serve

in the IDF, but a young child who is killed is placed beyond the fence?"

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said representatives of the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Chief Rabbinate had promised the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee in the past that there would be no more problems of burial of new immigrants because of doubts of their Judaism.

Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said he would file a High Court petition against the ministry for not abiding by the new law which demands that a section of all cemeteries be set aside for alternative civil burials.

# Baby revived after drinking asthma medicine

A two-year-old boy who drank 70 cc. of asthma medication was discharged from Laniado Hospital yesterday after being revived.

Tomer Bichachi, who lives in Netanya, is asthmatic and treated with Ventolin. His mother left the house for a short time, leaving the toddler with his eight-year-old sister. When the mother returned, she

found him apathetic; the bottle of Ventolin was empty next to him. She rushed him to the Netanya hospital, where he was found to have a rapid and irregular heartbeat. After consulting with the National Poison Control Center in Haifa, they treated him with active carbon to bind with the drug, which is manufactured by Glaxo.

Judy Siegel

# Assaf Harofeh technique detects Down Syndrome

JUDY SIEGEL

ASSAF Harofeh Hospital is offering a new, noninvasive method to identify fetuses with Down Syndrome in women under 35. The method was developed in Britain and using a conventional ultrasound machine and computer program, it reportedly identifies 80% of all cases.

The technique, developed by Prof. Kypros Nicolaides of London, examines nuchal translucency (the translucency of tissue at the nape of the neck) and the distance from a certain tissue in the neck to another. If the findings are beyond the normal range (translucency of more than three millimeters), the pregnant woman is sent for an invasive test that is 100% accurate: by amniocentesis or chorionic villae sampling.

However, these invasive tests can in a small percentage of cases cause a miscarriage, and are very expensive, so they are not used on women under 35.

Until now, women under 35 (who have a considerably lower risk of having a baby with Down Syndrome), are offered a blood test for alpha-feto-protein (which picks up 60% of cases); if the level indicates a problem, such a woman would be offered the invasive technique as well.

According to Dr. Arie Herman, who heads the nuchal translucency program at the Tzrifin hospital, the harmless ultrasound scan is conducted abdominally or vaginally in the 11th to 14th week of pregnancy. So far, gynecologists in Britain and elsewhere have conducted nearly 100,000 tests, and it picked up Down Syndrome (confirmed at birth or by invasive tests during pregnancy) in eight out of 10 cases.

Herman notes that the technique will not replace conventional techniques, but be added to the arsenal of existing tests. It is being offered free to qualified women during the morning shift as part of an international survey. If the demand becomes so great that scans need to be performed during the afternoon shift, the hospital will ask the Health Ministry to find a funding source.

# Religious Affairs panel appoints new heads to TA burial society

EVELYN GORDON

THE Religious Affairs Ministry has appointed a managing director and a deputy managing director for the Tel Aviv Hевра Kadisha (burial society), effective immediately, a ministry representative told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

However, the society's workers are still planning to go on strike today, after the workers' committee walked out of a meeting with the Religious Affairs Ministry.

According to the workers' committee, the strike was called to protest the appointment of MK Rafael Pinhasi (Shas) to an emergency committee overseeing reform of the organization. Pinhasi, who is facing an indictment on corruption charges, is not a fit person to eliminate corruption from the organization, they say.

However, the Religious Affairs Ministry charges that the real reason for the strike is the emergency committee's decision to hire temporary workers.

The new managing director and his deputy began work yesterday, the ministry said, and within 14 days a completely new management will be in place. According to ministry spokesman Yair Wolf, the appointments were unrelated to the strike,

but rather stemmed from the urgent need to effect major reforms in the society.

A committee also will be set up to investigate the workers' salaries, Wolf said.

Excessive salaries are one of the main reasons the organization racked up a NIS 328 million deficit in the first half of the year. According to a recent petition to the High Court of Justice by MKs Avraham Poraz (Meretz) and Yona Yahav (Labor), the average wage paid by the society was some NIS 26,000 a month as of March 1995. In 1993, the chairman's salary cost the society NIS 1.3 million a year, a half-time comptroller cost NIS 413,000 for a year, an ordinary teller cost NIS 384,000, a driver cost NIS 270,000 and a messenger cost NIS 212,000, the petition said. The ministry's action will presumably lead to the petition being withdrawn, since its goal was to force the appointment of a manager.

State Control Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said it was crucial to impose order on the organization, which performs about a third of the country's burials and receives some NIS 40m. a year from the government.

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# Beduin protest court's eviction order

DOZENS of Beduin from the Jahalin tribe of about 45 families yesterday protested a court order that they must leave their tent camps near Ma'aleh Adumim.

The 50 demonstrators, including about a dozen children, stood along the Jerusalem-Jericho highway, side by side signs reading "The world should see the plight of the Jahalin" and "The court decision is racist."

Border Police surrounded the protesters to keep them off the highway.

In August, the Supreme Court ruled that the Jahalin must leave the area where they have been grazing their goats for several decades. The

court said each family should be offered a plot near Abu Dis, on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Several members of the tribe rejected the offer, saying the plots they were being offered were close to a garbage dump.

An IDF officer said yesterday that for now, the Jahalin would not be removed by force. "We hope they will go there in good will," said Col. Ehud Zarachia.

However, Israeli Arab MK Talib a-Sanaa, whose ancestors are Beduin and who joined yesterday's protest, said Israel had no right to uproot the Jahalin. "They cannot bury people alive," he said. (AP)

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# Explosions break tenuous peace in Peru siege

TWO explosions punctuated the stalemate in Peru's hostage crisis yesterday, shattering an edgy peace at the besieged Japanese ambassador's residence where Marxist terrorists hold 74 captives.

ANDREW CAWTHORNE  
LIMA

ing an automatic rifle running across the driveway at the front of the compound shortly before the explosions.

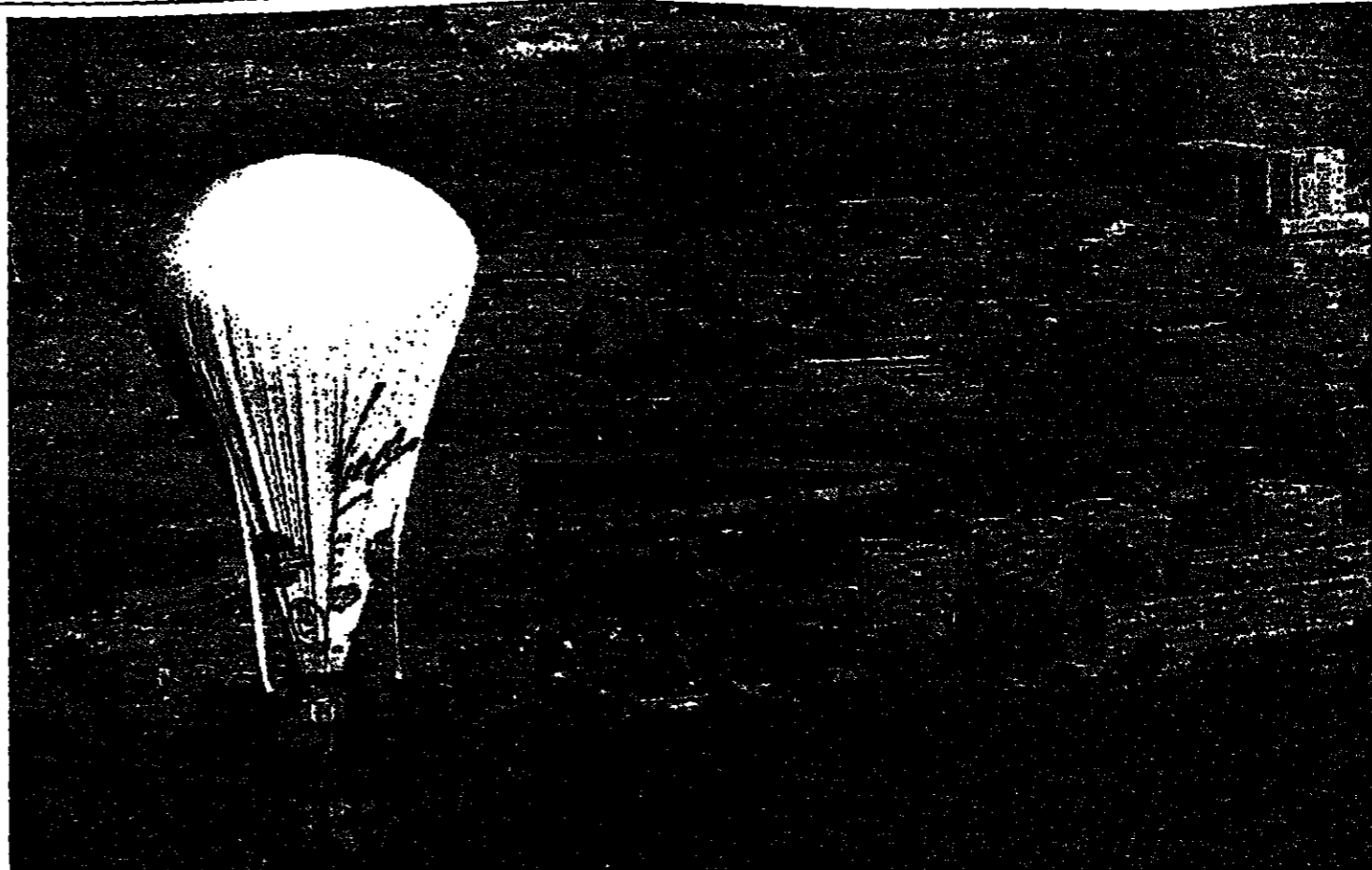
"I saw two of them. They ran back at different times. They threw a camera man Carlos Valdez said. "I think the guerrillas were trying to get one of the car batteries but they made a noise and decided to abort the operation, firing a couple of shots after they reached the house again."

Police surrounding the residence could not confirm that version of events but immediately moved to a state of alert. They speculated the MRTA was trying to make its presence felt. "We think it was a psychological tactic to let us know that

they're there," one policeman said. The explosions were the first heard at the residence since December 26, when a single loud boom briefly shook the area. That explosion was believed to be caused by an animal tripping a mine in the compound.

The explosions underscored the delicately balanced nature of the crisis, which began 21 days ago when about 20 heavily armed MRTA rebels stormed a cocktail party at the residence and took more than 500 guests hostage.

President Alberto Fujimori, who has maintained a "no compromise" stand throughout the siege, met late into the night with ministers to discuss options for a peaceful end to the crisis, government sources said. The meeting lasted nearly 10 hours.



MARRAKESH EXPRESS - Richard Branson's Global Challenger flies over Marrakesh in an attempt to travel around the world in 18 days.

# Criminal charges sought against Milosevic associates

BELGRADE (AP) - The opposition accused some of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's closest associates of organizing police beatings of demonstrators, and said yesterday its lawyers would pursue criminal charges against them.

The Serbian capital was quiet as people celebrated Christmas according to the Orthodox calendar. On Monday night, Christmas Eve, more than 200,000 people turned out for a combination protest march and holiday celebration.

The evening was marred by an explosion, likely caused by a grenade, on the grounds of the headquarters of a party allied with Milosevic. No one was hurt in the blast at offices of the Yugoslav United Left, the party of Milosevic's wife, Mirjana Markovic.

Zajedno, the opposition coalition whose name means

Together, has been behind seven weeks of protests since courts and election commissions controlled by the Serbian leader annulled November 17 local elections that the opposition won.

The coalition said that its lawyers would seek criminal charges against Interior Minister Zoran Sokolovic and his assistant Radovan Stojic.

Zajedno claimed that their investigation showed that Sokolovic ordered riot police and people in civilian clothes to club demonstrators at a December 27 protest.

The coalition also identified people it said took part in clubbing of the protesters, including some police commanders.

Prosecutors and courts are loyal to Milosevic, however, and it seemed unlikely the officials would be tried.

# Swiss deny trying to falsify Nazi gold

ZURICH (Reuters) - Switzerland's central bank yesterday denied allegations in a 1946 US intelligence document that the Swiss had encouraged Nazi Germany to restamp looted gold bars to hide their origin. The Swiss National Bank said extensive 1980s research by its own staff and outside historians into World War II gold purchases from Nazi Germany had turned up no evidence to back the allegations.

"Various historical studies came to the conclusion that the [Nazi] Reichsbank sold remelted ingots to the Swiss National Bank, but nothing ever pointed to an initiative for this remodeling by the SNB," spokesman Werner Abegg told reporters.

The bank was reacting to a US intelligence document released on Monday in New York by the World Jewish Congress, which has been combing the US National Archives to trace wartime Swiss financial dealings with the Nazis. The one-page May 20, 1946, memoran-

dum prepared by the US Office of Strategic Services, forerunner to the CIA, said Switzerland persuaded the Nazis to stamp gold ingots as made before the start of the war for fear that looted gold could be seized by the allies after the war ended. But the SNB said the document was dubious.

"This document was known to the United States at that time. The fact that the US did not act on this information points to the fact that the source is probably somewhat questionable," Abegg said.

The document, titled "German Gold in Switzerland," began with a statement on sourcing, saying, "The following report from a reliable conservative French source is based on information supplied by a banker who has been involved in many currency transactions with Switzerland."

The Nazis looted millions of dollars worth of gold from the countries they occupied and used it to pay for supplies bought in countries like

neutral Switzerland or to settle various accounts in neutral nations. The SNB acknowledged in a 1985 report that it bought 1.2 billion Swiss francs (about \$300 million at 1946 exchange rates) worth of gold from Nazi Germany between 1939 and 1945.

Abegg said the SNB supported a probe by nine Swiss and international historians, named by the Bern government last month, into a range of Swiss financial dealings during the war, including the gold purchases.

"This document, which is not quite clear on who did what... just shows that more fundamental and profound research is needed into this whole period," Abegg added.

The SNB Nazi gold purchases are part of a complex of charges levelled at Switzerland by critics headed by the World Jewish Congress, who also say Swiss banks profited cynically from Nazi deposits and sat on accounts left over by Jews killed in the Holocaust.

# Gingrich wins another term

WASHINGTON (AP) - House Speaker Newt Gingrich survived a wrenching public debate over his ethics to win reelection yesterday over the opposition of minority Democrats and a handful of dissenting Republicans.

Gingrich became the first Republican reelected speaker in 68 years, but his victory is tarnished. He awaits a public airing in the House ethics committee of his use of tax-exempt organizations for potentially partisan purposes and his inaccurate responses to investigators, and a likely vote of rebuke by the House itself.

"To the degree to which I was too brash, too self-confident or too pushy, I apologize," he told colleagues after walking through the chamber, shaking hands all the way down to the speaker's chair.

Mastermind of the Republican takeover of Congress two years ago, Gingrich received 216 votes for a second two-year term from the Republican majority. Democratic leader Dick Gephardt got 205.

# Former spymaster faces German justice again

DUESSELDORF, Germany (Reuters) - Legendary East German spymaster Markus Wolf went on trial yesterday charged with three cases of Cold War skulduggery which could have come straight from the pages of a classic espionage thriller.

The suave 73-year old, who ran East Berlin's foreign intelligence network for over 30 years, strongly rebutted prosecutors' charges in

his opening statement to the court.

"I declare myself to be not guilty," said Wolf, dressed in a smart dark double-breasted suit. "I did not violate either the constitution of the country I served or its laws." The trial is a last bid by prosecutors to bring to book the elusive figure dubbed "the man without a face" as his western counterparts for decades had little idea what he looked like.

Wolf was convicted of treason in the same Duesseeldorf courtroom in 1993. But Germany's highest court overturned the decision in 1995 saying Wolf could not be convicted of spying on what was then a foreign country - West Germany. This time prosecutors have charged Wolf with crimes under East German law - abduction, coercion and causing bodily harm.

"Now the Federal Prosecutor is trying to turn me into an ordinary criminal," Wolf told the court, accusing prosecutors of staging the trial for purely political reasons to discredit the East German system and its leaders.

Prosecutors also revived a charge from Wolf's original trial of acting as a secret agent for a foreign power. The charges relate to intelligence work in the 1950s and 1960s.

One of his biggest coups was



ON TRIAL - German Spymaster Markus Wolf.

planting "mole" Guenter Guillaume inside Chancellor Willy Brandt's office - leading to Brandt's resignation in 1974.

In his statement to the court, Wolf also defended his record in the case of Georg Angerer, an East German citizen who had been held in custody for half a year in 1959.

# Car bomb kills six in Algiers

PARIS (Reuters) - A huge car bomb exploded in central Algiers yesterday afternoon, killing six people and wounding at least 20, several of whom were in critical condition, security forces said.

An official source told Reuters by telephone that the security forces said the bomb went off near the main university faculty. The authorities have blamed previous bomb attacks on Moslem fundamentalists. The security force statement gave the toll as "provisional."

According to a police source around 40 people were wounded in the blast which rocked the area near the end of Algiers's main shopping street, Rue Didouche Mourad, blowing out windows and setting cars and one bus ablaze. One eyewitness said: "There were an awful lot of wounded. I saw a fireman picking up an arm from the ground."

Another witness, a crying student, said: "Not only have we had the strike [of university teachers] but now we have bombs." Heavily armed security forces, initially police but later soldiers, sealed off the area.

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# Targeted Arab newspaper a vigorous voice against terrorism

CALVIN WOODWARD

**I**NFLUENTIAL and relatively evenhanded for the Middle East, *Al-Hayat* is often the newspaper of choice when extremists publicize claims of responsibility for attacks. Now the messenger has become a target.

The interception of five letter bombs addressed to its Washington office left the Arabic paper firm in its determination to stand against terrorist acts. "Today we can only say that if we were scared, we wouldn't have chosen journalism as a career," the London-based international daily said last Friday.

And editor Ihtad al-Khazin said "We will not change our editorial policy." The FBI is investigating the five letter bombs and three others that were sent to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. Founded in Beirut 50 years ago, *Al-Hayat* is now owned by Prince Khalid bin Sultan, nephew of Saudi King Fahd, who commanded the Arab forces in the US-led coalition in the Gulf War.

If it rarely causes the Saudi royal family discomfort, it is still considered an enterprising and perhaps authoritative pan-Arab voice in a region where press freedoms are largely controlled, cowed or shackled.

"This newspaper does make enemies and it's so highly regarded," said Eric Goldstein, acting executive director of Human Rights Watch-Middle East.

"If I were an Arab speaker and consumer of one daily each morning, it would be *Al-Hayat* I would want to read."

Even so, he said "it does pull its punches on Saudi Arabia" while offering an unvarnished and often provocative view of the rest of the Arab world.

One of the paper's two Washington correspondents dis-

covered the first letter bomb Thursday while opening mail in *Al-Hayat's* bureau in the National Press Building. Noticing the bumpy envelope, he carefully opened it, saw a wire and summoned the police.

Three other letter bombs were found at the bureau and one was found at the post office, addressed to the paper. They were disabled without causing harm.

"I'm not particularly courageous and I hope it will just blow over," al-Khazin said.

The paper's editorials have been consistently critical of radical Islamic groups and opposed to their violent activities, especially in Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Egypt.

"Many other newspapers have taken the same position," al-Khazin said. "I really cannot pin one particular reason why we are targeted and not someone else."

The paper publishes the views of militants and moderates alike, and terrorists have often sent faxes to its offices to make threats against others or claim responsibility for acts, including the June bombing that killed 19 US airmen in Saudi Arabia.

Jim Zogby, president of the Arab-American Institute, said the paper's base in London gives it a freedom to report on Arab interests that it might not otherwise have.

And he contended *Al-Hayat* publishes a variety of viewpoints not firmly behind the Saudi government, including a harsh tone on US policy in the region and one writer's recent call for rapprochement with Iran.

"They have not taken the line of the Saudi dissidents who operate in London," he said. "But frankly I don't think a whole lot of people have taken that line." (AP)

# Terrorism's double-edged sword

ANALYSIS  
PINHAS INBARI

**S**YRIA was quick to blame Israel for last week's terrorist attack on a civilian bus in Damascus. Not forgetting that the orders for similar attacks on Israeli cities emanated from Damascus, such a declaration is less importantly a suggestion that Israel was behind this attack, or the others that have recently been carried out against Syrian military targets in Lebanon, and more a reminder that terrorism is regarded by the Syrian regime as a legitimate tool in foreign relations.

Damascus does sponsor terrorist organizations that operate not only against Israel, but against almost all of its neighbors, and even Jordan. The most serious suspicion of Syria's involvement in terrorism is related to last year's bombing of the Dhanan residence buildings of American military personnel in Saudi Arabia.

The Americans are investigating reports that the explosives came from the Syrian-

controlled Bekaa region in Lebanon - an issue that may develop into a serious problem between Syria and the USA. (It is strange that the Syrians did not seriously take into consideration American attempts to exclude them from the list of countries hosting terrorism.)

In the same Bekaa region, units of the Kurdish and Turkish "Labor Party" terrorist organization are being trained. Last year, Syria sent threatening terrorist cells to Jordan to attempt to prevent King Hussein from proceeding along his path to normalization of relations with Israel.

Most interestingly, Paris reacted to the reports last week by rebuking Syria for its involvement in international terrorism. The

French reaction may even indicate that Paris knows something about a possible Syrian connection with the Algerian fundamentalist group operating in the "City of Lights."

In this regard, it is worth mentioning the stormy meeting President Jacques Chirac had with the Christian Lebanese in Beirut's French Cultural Center during his Middle East tour last year. The Christians lamented the French president for starting his visit in Damascus, of all places.

They informed him of the brutal rule of Syria over Lebanon, and Chirac was embarrassed. The French exposure in Paris to terrorist activity, and the existence in Bekaa of fundamentalist groups, may have caused the French to review their opinion of the Syrian

regime. Over the years, France has supported the Christians (and Palestinians) in Lebanon, while Syria was regarded as an American ally. Former Lebanese president Michel Aoun was widely regarded as being backed by Paris, against the Syrians. He adamantly demanded the evacuation of Syrian troops from Lebanon after they were legalized under the US-sponsored Taif agreements on the eve of the Kuwait crisis. After he was toppled by the Syrians he found refuge in France, and lately he has resumed his public appearances there.

Whoever is really responsible for the attack in Damascus is still a mystery, but perhaps Syria received a message from its neighbors that terrorism is a double-edged sword - especially after the two main Western powers involved in Lebanese politics, the US and France, became targets of possible Syrian-sponsored terrorism.

# Blind Egyptian orchestra bewitches an invisible world

MIRAL FAHMY

**E**GYPTIAN conductor Ahmed Abul Eid taps three times with his baton, then stands aside as his female symphony orchestra bewitches the packed hall in Cairo with music from Bizet's opera *Carmen*.

Faces furrowed in concentration, the 45 musicians of the Light and Hope Orchestra pluck violins, clash cymbals and beat drums they cannot see in a rhythm they have learned by rote.

"This is the only orchestra in the world whose members are blind," says the silver-haired Eid.

"No other country in the world considered taking on this experiment because they said it was impossible. How can an orchestra play without the guidance of a maestro and without reading the classics?" he chuckles.

Set up in the 1960s as part of the Light and Hope Institute for Blind Girls, the orchestra has brought rapt audiences to their feet throughout most of the Middle East, Europe and parts of Asia with passionate renditions of the classics.

They have received countless awards and played well-known symphonies at some of the world's most famous concert halls.

Eid, who helped expand the troupe from a handful of women who had music written especially for them, stands redundantly before his orchestra, arms dangling limply.

"My role ends the moment they start to play. We practice a lot before each performance and they know what to do," he says of the orchestra, whose ages range from early teens to late 30s.

Twice a week the musicians practice for three to four hours nonstop a repertoire of Western and Arabic classics.

False starts and discordant tunes are sharply reprimanded and their groans totally disregarded.

Occasionally, in the throes of a particularly intense movement, Eid's hands will fly out of his pockets and wave before the sightless women.

"Classical music has so many subtleties and nuances but these girls manage to learn it. I compare them to a computer which we fill with information that can be retrieved when necessary," Eid



One of the 45 blind female musicians of the Light and Hope Orchestra checks musical notes in braille during a rehearsal. (Reuters)

says. Eid reads the music to the institute's blind music teachers who transcribe it into braille. After that, the painstaking practice sessions begin. "The strings, percussion and wind instrument players practise separately and until they know it perfectly. After that, the whole orchestra gets together and practices until the whole symphony is

perfect. Then we are ready," he said.

Eid points to the perfect synchronization of his violinists' bows and says that many leading Arab orchestras have yet to do the same. "We practice hard. Our girls want to be perfect. My biggest obstacle is always the music instruments and not the players," he says.

"We have to play well to get good applause. That's the ultimate goal of any musician," says Soad Sobhi, who has been playing the violin with the orchestra for 15 years.

Like most of her colleagues, Sobhi sees what critics have hailed as a miraculous performance as just another day's work. "I have never felt that being blind was an obstacle," says viola player Nadia Hamdi.

"On the contrary, being blind makes us special, we're the only orchestra in the world that is blind and that makes us more distinguished than anyone sighted," Malak el-Shirbini, chairwoman of the Light and Hope institute, says the purpose of the organization is to integrate its students into a society where the handicapped are given fleeting thought and have nothing but a peripheral role.

"The society was set up in 1954 to give blind girls a productive role in society," she says.

"We started out small but now have several sections which produce socks for the army, knitted clothes and plastic bottles which major companies ask us to fill up with vinegar and oil. We give the girls wages for their work and many other students have gone to university and work outside," she adds.

In the music room, Eid scowls fiercely and raps his baton angrily on the table as the violinists start milliseconds after the flautists.

"How many times have we gone through this?" he snaps at 45 apologetic faces.

A talking clock squeaks "It's six o'clock" before it is silenced by its owner, who nonetheless receives another furious glance from Eid.

"We will begin, again," he says and the orchestra launches into the overture of Domenico Cimarosa's opera *The Secret Marriage*. (Reuters)

# Jordanians visit detained relatives

**F**IFTY-one Jordanians headed for Kuwait Monday, to visit relatives imprisoned in the emirate since its liberation from Iraqi occupation in February 1991.

There are 69 Jordanians, the bulk of them of Palestinian extraction, jailed in Kuwait for collaborating with Iraq during its seven-month invasion of the emirate.

At least 19 of them are awaiting court orders to be expelled.

Among the Jordanians on the trip organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross are 17 children who will visit relatives held at the Central Prison in Kuwait, said Esther Schaufelberger of the Red Cross.

The trip is the third for Jordanians arranged by the Red Cross since June 1995. Gulf Arabs, including Kuwait,

ostracized Jordan for its perceived pro-Iraq tilt following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

After its liberation, Kuwait dismissed thousands of Jordanians from their jobs in the emirate, closed down the Jordanian embassy there, and recalled its ambassador from the kingdom. Relations improved last year, when Jordan began distancing itself from Iraq, publicly criticizing the leadership in Baghdad and granting asylum to dissidents.

Jordanian and Kuwaiti officials met several times last year and exchanged diplomatic letters, and Kuwait also resumed telephone links with Jordan.

However, Arab diplomats say anti-Jordanian sentiments remain high in Kuwait. (AP)

# In Saudi Arabia, snacking during Ramadan may mean deportation

**I**N the Saudi capital Riyadh, the Interior Ministry has issued its annual warning that non-Muslims could face deportation if they are caught eating or drinking in public during the Ramadan month of fasting, newspapers reported last weekend.

During the holy month, which starts next week, Muslims abstain from food and drink from dawn till dusk. The exact date will be determined by the sighting of the new moon.

The ministry warned the one million non-Muslim expatriates living in Saudi Arabia (out of a total population of 17 million) that if they are caught drinking, eating or smoking in public they face punishments including termina-

tion of their work contracts and deportation.

Muslims caught eating in public are jailed for no more than a week, lectured in prison about their conduct and encouraged to fast and pray with others jailed on similar charges.

Other Gulf states also punish those caught eating, drinking or smoking in public during the holiday. In Bahrain, violators can be jailed until the end of the month and have their heads shaved. In the United Arab Emirates, violators face one month in jail or a fine of up to 1,500 dirhams (\$410). Anyone caught drinking alcohol in public during Ramadan in the UAE could be sentenced to 80 lashes. (AP)

# Libya sentences eight to death for spying

**L**IBYA has sentenced six military officers and two civilians to death for spying, calling them "tools of the enemies of the revolution" and alleging they used equipment from the CIA. But Libyan experts in Cairo said they believed the sentences were related not to espionage, but to a 1993 coup attempt that has never been publicly acknowledged by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The sentences were issued last week by the Supreme Military Court. The officers were to be executed by firing squad, and the civilians by hanging. Libya's state-run television said six other officers and two civilians were acquitted. The television, monitored by the

BBC, showed an unidentified official in civilian clothes reading a statement to the court after the sentences had been given. "You mobilized yourselves as spies against your country and allowed the enemies to get hold of military, economic, and security capabilities by using sophisticated equipment supplied by the CIA," the official said.

Libya says Gaddafi's 15-month-old adopted daughter was among those killed in the 1986 bombing. The television added in reference to the defendants: "Those who broke the oath and offered themselves as tools of the enemies of the revolution ... receive the punishment they deserve, for the disgrace they brought on the homeland." (AP)

# Flirtatious men in United Arab Emirates risk shame, jail

RANA SABBAGH

**M**ALE fear of being publicly shamed in a conservative, closely knit society has cut down on harassment of women in Dubai, the Gulf's most cosmopolitan city.

Under a recent crackdown, police are publishing pictures of so-called "eve-teasers" in newspapers. Some of the alleged offenders are expatriates, mainly from Asian countries. Others are Gulf Arabs.

The risk of public disgrace in a Muslim society, where many families know each other, is acting as a deterrent.

This is scaring many affluent young men with nothing much to do, who are being blamed for harassment, a problem rare in the sexually segregated societies of the Gulf.

From Gulf Arab women enveloped head to foot in traditional black robes to Europeans in revealing miniskirts, women are subjected to whistles, winks and whistles.

"Cases of female harassment have dropped to 19 last year, from 69 in 1995 and 94 in 1991 since, (Crown Prince) Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum decided to display pic-

tures of these reckless youth in newspapers," said a police official. "This has helped to give security to all women in Dubai and to install in men proper moral codes of conduct and decency as taught by Islam."

Actual proof, based on an eyewitness report, is needed before police can enforce the sheikh's nine-month-old rule. In addition, offenders' cars are impounded for up to a month and they are detained for 48 hours.

Dubai has a reputation for being the most tolerant of the seven sheikhdoms that make up the United Arab Emirates. Alcohol is served in hotel restaurants and foreign women wear skimpy bikinis on beaches.

Police in other emirates, including Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, also chase alleged offenders but do not publish their pictures. According to UAE laws, a man can be fined up to \$3,000 and jailed for up to a year if convicted of physical or verbal acts in public "deemed offensive to female decency."

Most officials say women have rarely pressed charges because of strict social traditions.

Young, mostly clean-shaven men, doused in heavy cologne,

gather near entrances to schools and air-conditioned shopping malls to try to meet women in a country where traditions ban males from mixing with females before marriage. Others throw tiny pieces of paper at women listing their mobile telephone numbers in the hope of starting a dialogue, or chase them, often in luxury Mercedes or BMWs.

"I am here to ensure law and order from these irresponsible minors who have nothing to do but to insult women," said a policeman patrolling undercover in a flowing white robe in a shopping complex.

The crackdown has sparked criticism by many men who believe similar punishment should be inflicted on women who openly flirt with them. Women should dress modestly if they do not want to attract attention, they say.

"I have seen hooligans of all nationalities harass women," said Najj Ali, a 35-year-old Lebanese businessman. "But to be fair, I must say that I have been harassed myself by women calling me on my mobile phone at odd hours and

trying to arrange dates. Women also wink at me and try to pass notes to me in shopping malls."

Social researcher Rashid Mohammad Rashid, 36, warns against repercussions of criminalizing the mostly "bored young boys" in the Gulf Arab state. "By publishing his picture, you can

actually destroy a young man and end his future in a society where everybody knows everybody and transform him into a delinquent."

Harassment is rare in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman, which have managed to keep their societies segregated, social workers say. (Reuters)

# THE PALESTINIANS BETWEEN TERRORISM AND STATEHOOD...



Pinhas Inbari's book provides an in-depth account of the current Israel-Palestinian peace process, including developments in the Israeli-occupied territories, and the internal struggles within the PLO and between the PLO and its adversaries. Softcover, 258 pp. JP Price NIS 95 incl. VAT, p&h in Israel.

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Fixing Oslo

THE man to beat in the race to succeed Shimon Peres as leader of the Labor Party is former IDF chief of general staff and foreign minister Ehud Barak.

Monday's Labor Knesset faction meeting was devoted to withering attacks on Barak, including from his newest supporter, former tourism minister and popular Labor figure Uzi Baram.

But, like it or not, Barak has put his finger on one of Oslo's greatest internal contradictions, and not for the first time.

At that time, Barak said, "This puts us in an impossible dilemma. If we give so much territory away in redeployments, then we have no cards when we are faced with the toughest final status issues.

In fact, Oslo is schizophrenic when it comes to dealing with tough final status issues. On the one hand, the issues of settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, and sovereignty are left to final status.

It was certainly justifiable for Israel to demand at the outset that the Palestinians annul their pledge to bring about Israel's destruction.

Israel's cards concern territory; the Palestinian's cards concern peace—that is the nature of the beast.

Barak's concern is that the breakdown in trust

between the sides (which he blames on Netanyahu) will cause this internal contradiction to blow Oslo apart, and that only way to save Oslo is to correct it.

The Netanyahu proposal levels the playing field and minimizes the amount of negotiation, thereby reducing the risk of a breakdown.

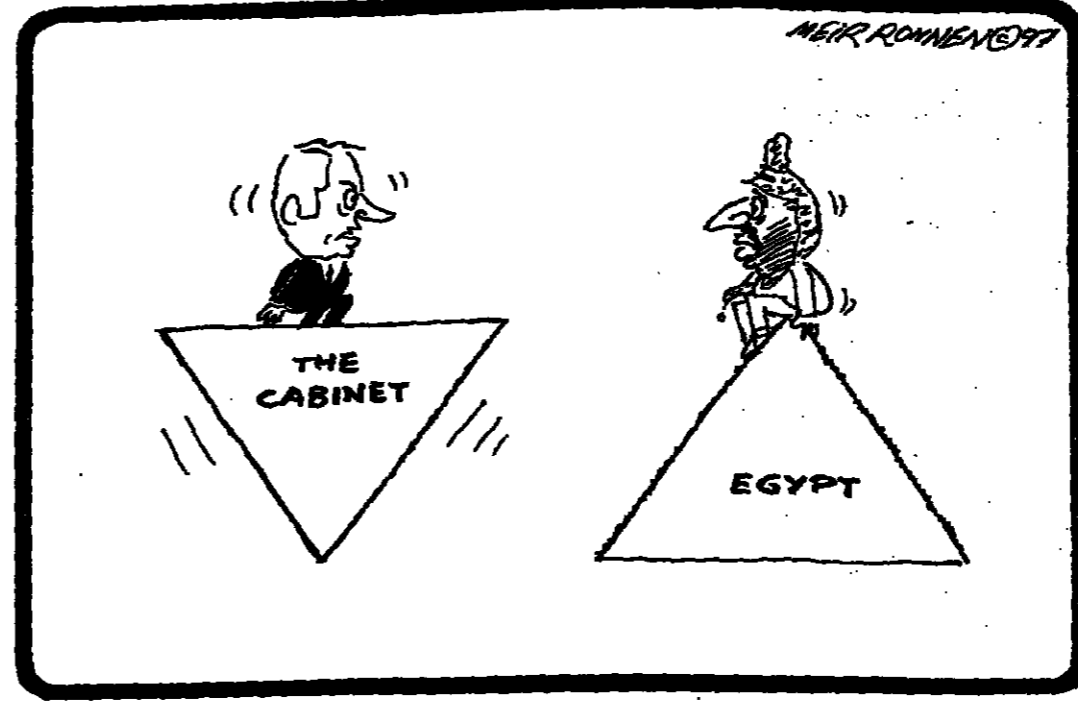
As a freight train compelling its passengers to stay on board until reaching its final destination, Oslo is so far a success.

The interim agreement has become a sword of Damocles hanging over the prospect of final status talks.

It is important to remember here that the person who opened up the issue of the date of final redeployment during the Hebron negotiations was not Barak or Netanyahu but Yasser Arafat.

The fact that the United States is reportedly proposing a compromise date indicates that it might agree with this perspective.

It is important that the Oslo agreement be honored, and in general neither side should seek to reopen it.



It's just a bad joke

THE nation has been wrestling with some thorny questions, easier to ask than to answer: the boundaries of the future state and of a general strike.

Some enlightened groups have been heard claiming that when it comes to satire, our public lacks tolerance.

One could call us the Garden of Eden—or, more accurately, the Wild West—of public satire.

In any event, it would seem that this is how it has to be; some even claim it is the sign of a healthy public debate.

So the only remaining question is: What exactly constitutes satire? First we got that young fellow with the sweet smile and funny spectacles, Gil Kopatch, playing

EPHRAIM KISHON

The mission was successfully accomplished, with the press responding that "Anyone who gets himself photographed with his family shouldn't be surprised to see his son portrayed as a little monster."

A further clever attempt was made to portray the PM as a bird doing its business on the head of President Clinton, dressed up as a scarecrow.

Israeli political satire has been in really bad shape lately. As something of a last resort, the Hartzufim were forced to pick on Shimon Peres, showing him nuzzling up to the premier, barking like a little poodle.

What they didn't take into account was that Peres, who has spent his entire life being hounded by the media, is quite immune to this sort of thing.

Then this brilliant idea dawned on those noble, enlightened circles: to surprise—loser Shimon, with a screening of that successful scene—and this time they scored. Peres blanched and looked shamefaced.

THE perplexing thing about the whole phenomenon is that the Hartzufim is a show of unparalleled popularity. It has no need for the kind of vulgarity it continues to present.

But there's nothing to be done. Thus God created man: From days of yore he has striven for high ratings.

In times past, the Cameri Quintet stole even my heart with its stubborn determination not to descend to the unpleasantness that is so prevailing.

Unfortunately, however, they too got infected with the Kopatch Syndrome. Blasting off into Yair's kindergarten with all their considerable acting abilities, they elicited loud cries from the PM's Office, from Mrs. PM and from Yair's teacher as well.

But first place went again to the hit called "Bibi," this time mouthing ridiculous rhetoric in a death camp using halting English.

Also exposed in the program were the GSS's "butchers," their hands stained with fresh blood, caring only about their crotches. In short—social satire at its best.

Everything happened as foreseen. Kopatch woke up, realized his thunder was about to be stolen, and decided he was going to be the next Aviv Gefen, on the receiving end of a stream of kisses.

In view of Gil's new stature, little wonder that the producers of Popolitika jumped for joy when that giant of satire accepted their invitation to sing something on the show.

Gil soon made himself at home there. He called himself "a maniac" and proceeded to cloak with the profound contempt in which he holds this stinking country a few pathetic clowns like Theodor Herzl, David Ben-Gurion and Yosef Trumpeldor.

One might ask why the show's producers agreed to this. For the record, it should be stated that at the end of this piece of brilliant political satire, our worthy host Dan Margalit gave a somewhat crooked smile.

Now only a few national topics remained for brilliant satirical treatment: Reuma Weizman as a lesbian; the PM sleeping with his (fired) suitor; the Almighty in the bathroom, ripping pages out of the scriptures.

That's the state of the political satire market right now. No satire, no politics, no nothing. Genuine satire is compressed truth, truth peeled of hypocrisy.

God doesn't watch movies; a proud man like Shimon Peres wouldn't abase himself at Netanyahu's feet, and Netanyahu does subject himself to Clinton's wishes.

Herzl wasn't exactly a funny little dwarf, he was a giant of human history, and anyone who impersonates our premier as someone unable to utter one coherent sentence in English isn't creating political satire but sheer nonsense.

Clear as mud

TEDDY PREUSS

THE prime minister recently urged his cabinet ministers to rally round a concerted campaign to explain the government's policies to the public.

Not surprisingly, some ministers asked, "What's to explain when there's no policy?"

Were Binyamin Netanyahu employed in some office on Madison Avenue, his request would have been reasonable.

Only after hammering out his government's policies should Netanyahu spend time explaining them, and not the other way around.

The problem is that our premier deems it a success when CNN devotes a minute and a half to him, and only a minute to Chairman Arafat or President Mubarak.

If there is any single area of the cabinet's tasks that hasn't been neglected, it is hasbara.

Netanyahu has been tireless in trying to persuade the public that in the wake of his government's actions—usually his own TV appearances and press conferences—Israel's position has been strengthened, and all previous misunderstandings erased.

Indeed! Israel's international standing has eroded not because its positions haven't been sufficiently clarified but because other governments do not perceive Israel as having any real policies at all.

Decisions intended to strengthen the settlements are not received favorably anywhere in the world, with the exception of "Jewish" Hebron and the settlements themselves.

Netanyahu promised the US Congress that Israel would take the initiative in reducing the level of US economic aid it receives; that government companies and public services would be privatized; and that the bureaucracy would be cut down to size within a few months.

He implied to his voters that, once he was elected, he would change the Oslo agreement. Now, whenever he is asked, he reiterates his intention to honor them.

He promised to redeploy from Hebron, but in the meantime there are more IDF units there than ever.

He promised never to cede the Golan, but some of his ministers repeatedly declare that there is no hope for peace with Syria without withdrawal.

He promised to slash the budget mercilessly; but what was actually slashed is very debatable. Simultaneously, the settlements have been promised additional incentives and support.

Every schoolchild was promised a computer of his own, but so far only additional school fees have been decreed.

Before the elections, Netanyahu promised he would never meet Arafat. He has since met him several times, each time heaping greater praise on the man. The list of his promises and contrary deeds goes on.

The more they are explained, the murkier his policies get. Hasbara is no substitute for policy.

THE PROBLEM stems from the fact that it hasn't yet dawned on Netanyahu that he is prime minister.

Israel does need good information; but more than that, it needs clear policies, even if they are misguided—ones that could increase friction with the nations in the region and the whole world, and possibly even lead us to war.

An absence of policy is the worst possible situation. When we have a publicist instead of a prime minister sitting in the government offices on Rehov Kaplan in Jerusalem, we cannot, but shudder at the memory of the article written in the 1980s by US deputy secretary of state George Ball. It was entitled "How to save Israel despite herself."

The writer is a veteran journalist.

Thus God created man: to strive after ratings

around with our holy texts on state-run TV like some naughty high-schooler.

He soon got lucky, achieving the dream of every Israeli performer: A Sbas deputy minister, Shlomo Benizi, making a loud and public protest, naming our Gil, overnight, into the region's most celebrated satirist—especially after Kopatch met the haredi macher face to face and gave him a lesson in freedom of speech.

Kopatch became a media darling. Following his comments about the Creator's passion for American movies and about stoned and burping holy men having willies and other amusing appendages, not only did Kopatch's ratings skyrocket, even our Knesset representatives received him with fanfare.

There was never any doubt about Kopatch being a candidate for the Israel Prize, even though Moti Kirschenbaum had already won it for Israeli humor.

Our performing community are quick learners. It speedily got through to them that high ratings aren't netted through scandal alone; you also need an official "activist," the more extreme the better, to explode in a fit.

According to statistics recently put out by the Media Institute for the Study of the Insult Market, a fit of rage by a religious or right-wing minister is likely to boost the ratings of the average satirist by 18 percent, when accompanied by financial threats, 23 percent.

An emotional protest by the premier has the market value of 24-26 percent; and by Sara, 30-34 percent, taking into account the level of vulgarity originally employed, and the amount of anger elicited.

No wonder, therefore, that those responsible for the Hartzufim basked in Kopatch's runaway success and decided that they also would go out and acquire a protest that was truly worthy of them—and not only among the public, but in the free press too.

How to do it? The editors brought all their weighty professionalism to bear on the challenge, and reached a conclusion: Since they had already copied all their dandem bullets into "Bibi and Sara," the only remaining target for a bit of biting satire was the couple's son Yair.

POSTSCRIPTS

A MAGAZINE in New Zealand canceled an advertisement that depicts members of the Ku Klux Klan gathered around a burning cross.

The advertisement was for a color-separating machine called "Flame," used in the printing industry. It featured the statement: "Our Flame's ability to separate colors has been praised by experts in the field."

Admedia, an advertising industry magazine, said it stopped running the ad after the Advertising Standards Complaints Board described it as "socially irresponsible."

AN ARGENTINE sailor missing and presumed dead after his ship was sunk in the Falklands War in 1982, has turned up in a mental asylum 14 years later.

Oscar Montegrosso, 34, was found by his mother in the Montes de Oca asylum near Buenos Aires, where he was listed as "NN"—No Name.

Elvira Montegrosso had kept up the search for her son and had heard that he might be at the asylum.

Television pictures showed him sitting in the sun with other inmates, apparently unaware of all the fuss.

FOUR GERMAN graffiti artists who went to New York City to paint the town were arrested after allegedly jumping a subway turnstile.

The suspects, who arrived from Munich, were charged with fare evasion and possession of more than two dozen cans of spray paint.

"They came here to paint the town red, white, blue, green," police said.

According to police, the four, aged between 19 and 22, said "they came here to graffiti the subway. They're not here to see the Statue of Liberty."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FUNDAMENTALS

Sir, - All through Jewish history, our leadership and people have never voluntarily relinquished our claim to any part of the Land of Israel.

city reconquered by our people - Jericho. It is no surprise that this spreading cancer now threatens Hebron, the first national capital under King David.

While some Jews may devalue the worth of our heritage and depth of our national existence, no segment of the Jewish people have the ability to relinquish the rights of the whole group.

TRUE HAREDIM

Sir, - The Western press has fallen into the trap of labeling lunatic terrorists as "Islamic fundamentalists." It seems that here in Israel, we suffer from a similar myopia.

stones and bottles. Lunatics would not violate basic precepts of our faith by assaulting a woman who opened her door to another woman seeking a divorce from her husband.

INJURY PREVENTION

Sir, - MK Eli Goldschmidt's dramatic announcement that the number of traffic injuries in 1996 will reach more than 46,000, representing a 21 percent increase, is shocking indeed.

Islamic fundamentalists have as much to do with Islam as these "haredim" have to do with Judaism. You do a disservice to us all by allowing them to hide behind the label.

Netanya.

While Arab autonomy in Israel may be important, it should extend no deeper than the soles of their feet. My children retain the right to Hebron as established by Abraham.

SCOTT DAVID LIPPE, M.D. Mineola, N.Y.

WELL-DESERVED AWARD

Sir, - Your health correspondent, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, well deserves her Hadassah "Woman of Distinction" Award.

Kochav Yair.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sir, - Your health correspondent, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, well deserves her Hadassah "Woman of Distinction" Award.

Handwritten signature: יחיאל

(Pre)fi

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off.

אוריאל אבן

# A good start to the Year of the Cow

**T**HE psychology of numbers. Labor chairman Shimon Peres, who celebrated the start of the Chinese year of the cow by assuming the honorary presidency of the Council for the Promotion of Israel-China Relations, remarked that in thinking about his new job, he suddenly realized that China is 200 times the size of Israel. "It's bad enough to run one Israel," he commented, "but to run 200 Israel..." Tel Aviv mayor Roni Milo also joined the numbers game, observing that since Tel Aviv and Beijing had become sister cities promoting cultural exchanges, his constituency had grown to 60,400,000.

Though several references were made to various high-ranking Israeli officials who had visited China and to the part played by business tycoon Shaul Eisenberg in the establishment of Israel-China relations, no one recalled the late David Hacohen, who led a government mission to China as far back as 1955.

**PAUSING DURING** a long speech in Chinese, Chi Hualyuan, who heads the Chinese Association of Relations with Foreign Countries, corrected his translator who had made a mistake in English. But it is doubtful whether his linguistic skills surpass those of Wang Yukun, the Jerusalem-based, very personable representative of the Xinhua News Agency, who speaks fluent English, Hebrew and Arabic, and who is also a talented singer. Guests attending the festive CPICR function had the rare opportunity to hear him sing Chinese opera.

**WHEN SHE** was planning to accompany her husband on his presidential tour of India, all Reuma Weizman could think of was that at last she would see the fabled Taj Mahal. But it was not to be. The Israel Air Force Boeing 707 circled the area twice; but the tarmac was too short and there were other technical reasons which

## GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

prompted the pilot to decide against landing. President Ezer Weizman was in the cockpit and his wife prevailed upon him to use his influence. But it was all to no avail. In the end, Weizman praised the pilot for not yielding to social pressures which might have endangered the lives of the passengers.

Reuma Weizman didn't get to see the Taj Mahal this time, which is just one more good reason for yet another passage to India.

**RELIGIOUSLY** observant Jews visiting Moscow will soon be able to stay at a kosher hotel, eat in a kosher restaurant and shop in a kosher supermarket, all of which are part of a community complex being built under the auspices of Habad. A 1,000-seat synagogue which is also part of the complex, is due to be completed in time for High Holy Day services. Architect of the project is Tel Aviv-based Israel Goodovitch, who has already designed two major shopping malls in Moscow and has been commissioned for a third. The great-grandson of Rabbi Yisrael Meir Hacohen, better known as the Hafetz Haim, the secular Goodovitch has never before had a synagogue built to his specifications.

His plans for a synagogue in Yamit evaporated for political reasons when the territory was returned to Egypt. Two other synagogues which he designed in Nazareth and Jerusalem did not materialize for lack of funds. Now, finally, his portfolio will include a synagogue. Though a secularist all his life, Goodovitch, now in his sixties, has stopped working on the Sabbath. So far, this is his only concession to religion. But as he himself says, who knows? Maybe his great-grandfather, who was one of the founding leaders of Agudat Yisrael, is having a latent influence on him yet.

**THE PREMIERE** at the Jerusalem Theater of the "Shared Experience" production of *The Tempest*, while not attracting a full house, nonetheless enjoyed a large and appreciative audience. However, hardly anyone other than the cast and a few officials tamed up at the reception hosted by the British Council after the show. The few guests hung around in embarrassment, waiting for something to happen, and British Council director Harley Brookes literally had to be nudged into making a two-sentence speech. The bright spot was a note handed by a member of the audience to David Meyer, who played Alonso. The writer had gone to university with him and had appeared with him in *The Crucible*. But Meyer couldn't quite figure out who it was because he didn't have his spectacles with him.

**SHE WAS** hopping mad when the great love of her life began romancing her adopted daughter, but now Mia Farrow is even more furious with Woody Allen because he intends making a Mia-and-Woody film about their life together and their parting. Farrow has had enough of her privacy invaded and she doesn't want any more. Still, it will be interesting to see who Allen chooses to play the female lead, and more to the point, whether he will play the male lead himself.

**IN AN** unusually candid interview with Playboy Whoopi Goldberg, who usually plays glib characters, proves to be pretty glib herself. The 41-year-old Oscar winner, who has just filed for divorce from Lyle Trachtenberg, her husband of one year's standing, admits to having practiced the oldest profession. When she was young and poor in San Diego, she became a drug addict and resorted to prostitution to support her habit and her daughter Alexandra, now 22. The clever lady decided to fess up before some snoopy reporter found out and spilled the beans.

## ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN

**T**HE "most trusted man in America" has written his memoirs and that trust seems well placed, even when he tells you the news medium he helped create is seriously flawed, and when he tells you his greatest disappointment was not going to the moon.

When Walter Cronkite speaks, Americans listen. He is, after all, the man whose "That's the way it is" at the end of every newscast, Dutch-uncle demeanor, and high professional standards, helped wean the US away from reading newspapers to depending first - and often solely - on television to give them the news.

The CBS anchorman who guided America through the agony of the Kennedy assassination, who warned that the war in Vietnam could not be won, and that Watergate was a major scandal, helped create a monster: the dominance of TV news. Looking back, he is not happy about that.

"A career can be called a success if one can look back and say: 'I made a difference.' I don't feel I can do that," he wrote near the end of *A Reporter's Life*, a memoir he avoided writing for more than 20 years, until a knee replacement operation two years ago left him unable, for a while, to drive fast cars, sail yachts, or seriously dream of being the first journalist to set foot on the moon.

Now 80, he has fashioned his memoirs as a tour through more than a half century of American journalism: from the Great Depression to the depressing present, when fewer and fewer people read newspapers or even bother watching the 22 minutes a night of network news headlines.

"We were interested in delivering as much news as we could. But when you compress you get more heat than light. We were giving people a guide to their day; for fuller information they were supposed to read newspapers. They've since given that up entire-



Walter Cronkite's career led him to guide America through some of its toughest crises, all recorded in his memoir. (Reuters)

involving titans, not penny-pinchers. He tells how he covered the Second World War at the front and avoided getting killed (part cowardice, part luck, part heroism).

He recreates his time covering Stalin's grim Moscow for United Press, and later, when he worked for CBS, getting John F. Kennedy so red hot by asking him about his Catholicism that Kennedy called Cronkite's bosses and tried to blackmail them to take him off covering the campaign.

And in one of the book's most powerful stories, he tells how he went to Vietnam after the Tet Offensive and came back so disillusioned that he decided to give a personal note about the war at the end of a special report.

To journalists of Cronkite's generation the hardest thing was to give their own opinion, flat out, unhedged.

"To say that we are closer to victory today is to believe, in the face of the evidence, the optimists who have been wrong in the past. To suggest we are on the edge of defeat is to yield to unreasonable pessimism. To say we are mired in stalemate seems the only realistic, yet unsatisfactory conclusion," he began.

He concluded: "It is increasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out, then, will be to negotiate, not as victors, but as honorable people who lived up to their pledge to defend democracy and did the best they could."

Lyndon Baines Johnson, the president who made Vietnam his war, watched Cronkite that night. An aide in the room with him reported that he flipped off the set and said, "If I have lost Cronkite, I've lost middle America." Five weeks later Johnson announced he would not seek a second term.

LBJ trusted the not-easily-given opinion of the most trusted man in America, a man who says he is stopped nowadays by strangers on the street and asked, "Didn't you used to be Walter Cronkite?"

Yes he was, and still is. (Reuters)

# (Pre)fixations

A. MARK CLARFIELD

**P**REFIXES, kind of forward-looking add-ons, are lots of fun. They modify, adjust, and transfigure other more maudlin words. And others agree. For example, *The New York Times* wordsmith William Safire recently featured a short glossary on meta-ending his piece with a definition of the neologism metamessage.

In another time and place, a cat-like James Joyce (sharpened pen in lieu of claw) also enjoyed playing with these linguistic mice. For example, a sentence from *Ulysses* contains the following: "...transubstantiation or consubstantiality but in no case substantiality."

Not surprisingly, doctors love them too. Hypo- and hyper- are omnipresent in our lingo and literature. Quasi- and pseudo- warn us against mere appearances. Dis- (dys- in the United Kingdom) informs so many mal-functions. But MDs aren't the only ones to find these little demi-words of use. Without prefixes, English would be lost. But more on that later.

The Compact Edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* defines prefixes as: "a verbal element placed before and joined to a word or stem to add to or qualify its meaning." So far so good. But the definition rambles on into (for me) a kind of grammatical incoherence: "...or [in some languages] as an inflectional formative: strictly applied only to inseparable particles." Very interesting, but not all that useful to most of us in our day-to-day work.

We are all familiar with the usual prefixes which come to us from Latin or Greek, such as peri-, dis-, anti-, and pro-. (The last mentioned reminds me of the old vaudeville quip: "Are you Protagoras or against him?")

There are a surprising lot of these stick-ons about. For example the *Britannica Book of English Usage* offers 70. Not only are there three-score and ten of these little word-helpers, but they have been carefully classified by those in the know. Some are designated negative such as a-, dis-, or un-. One authority informs that of these, un- is by far the most productive, and he helpfully points out the reason: "since it typically involves less lexicalization than the other prefixes."

The classification continues. There are reversative prefixes (pre-), pejorative prefixes (pseudo-), prefixes of degree or size (arch-), prefixes of orientation or attitude (anti-), locative prefixes (fore-), prefixes of time and order (ex-), number prefixes (bi-), and my all-time favorite, the miscellaneous neo-classical prefix (such as auto-, or not surprisingly, neo-).

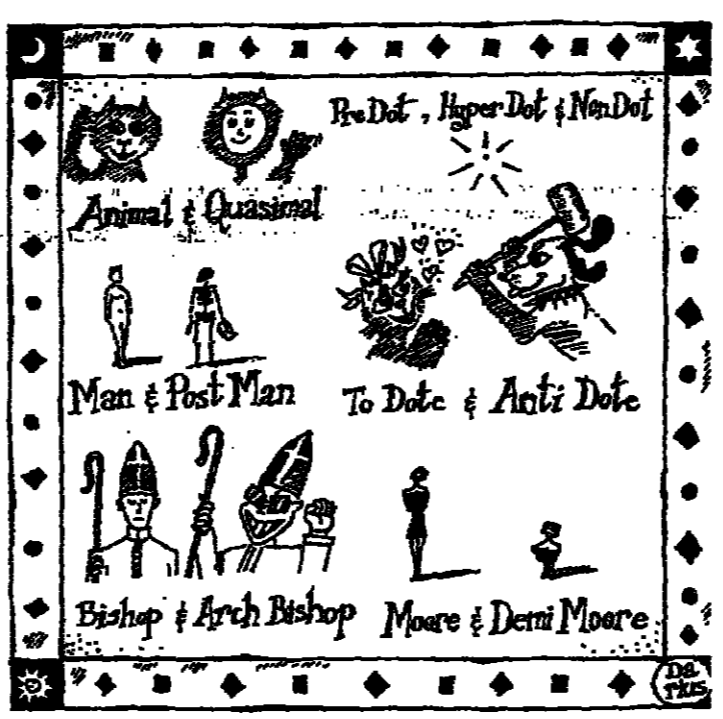
Some words without their prefixes are perfectly intelligible. Good examples would be supernatural or amoral. But what about those words which, when their prefixes are lopped off in a kind of syntactic terror, make no sense at

all to the modern eye? Renege springs to mind. Would you forgive someone who only neges once, but lose patience if it happened again? Dis- words offer more examples. There are many of these which, once divested of their dis-, do not make that much sense. We all know someone whom we disdain mightily. But can any of you point out someone you feel positive enough to claim that you disdain them a lot?

In contrast, mal- and in- prefixes can usually be dropped unceremoniously, leaving a fine upright word standing proud. Malcontent, maladjusted, malfunction are obvious examples. On the other hand, although stories are full of heroes, have you ever seen efacor used as a synonym for the good guy? Villains may act maliciously, but which protagonist is ever seen to comport himself in a icious manner?

A recent newspaper article advises parents not to become constipated by their children's sloppy habits. But what if they do clean up their rooms? Should moms or dads get sternated? The little devils have, in spite of their rude ways, inveigled themselves into your heart. But if they fail to find your affections, have they veigled?

Sometimes prefixes are grafted on most inappropriately. (Here, the in- of inappropriate is not being used in an inappropriate manner.) Irregardless is my



favorite example, and is charitably described in my dictionary as a "non-standard usage" of regardless. Come to think of it, what exactly does regardless mean?

There is an endless list of words that, stripped bare of their prefixes, look as unbecoming as a preacher with his pants down. Nonplussed, obviate, precarious, and sublime are good examples. Even constipated fits the bill. (Could it be that stipated was once a synonym for regular?)

As a Jewish physician I cannot help mentioning the medical term for a little bit of male anatomy snipped off via circumcision - the

prepuce. It must follow then that after the operation, we men are left with a mere puce.

Like foreskins, prefixes (especially when they fall off) are loads of fun. Above all, we owe a vote of thanks to the Greeks and Romans who supplied us with so many of these nifty little modifiers.

One final question. If a prefix can be defined as "one or more letters or syllables added to the beginning of a root word," what does a fix refer to? And if anyone can answer this question to my satisfaction, I would be very grunted.

# Entrance tests don't need to be damaging to a child's self-esteem

## PARENTING RUTH MASON

**L**AST year, my son was rejected from two schools to which we had applied for first grade. Most of his friends got into these schools. My daughter is going into first grade next year. If she also gets rejected, how do I present this to her in a way that won't damage her self-image?

At this time of the year, many parents think about the advantages and disadvantages of sending a child to a school that either has a special emphasis, an alternative method of educating, or a different ideological basis. These schools may or may not have an entrance examination or screening process. Ask yourselves these questions: Do we want what this school has to offer? Will it be a good for our child to go to such a school and why? And do we want (i.e. is it worth it) to put our child through a test?

I would encourage parents to carefully examine their motivations for sending their child to a school that screens out children. They should also make sure that they are able to live with an alternative before they put the child through a screening process or entrance examination. It's important not to feel that this one school is the only way your child can be in a good school or receive a good education. If they feel this is the only possibility the child has and he is not accepted, it will follow, in the child's perception, that something is wrong with him.

Be aware that there are many reasons these schools do not accept children, including giving preferences to siblings of existing pupils, needing a balance of boys and girls, or adhering to municipal by-laws that require accepting a certain number of pupils from the school's catchment area.

View the entrance tests as a policy rather than as tests of ability. You can tell your child from the beginning that this school doesn't take all the children. And if you have disciplined yourself to thinking of an alternative, you can convey very clearly to the child that this is an experiment.

If you go, wonderful; if you don't, we have another alternative. It's not like there is a void outside. This will also make the child feel easier about going to the interview or test.

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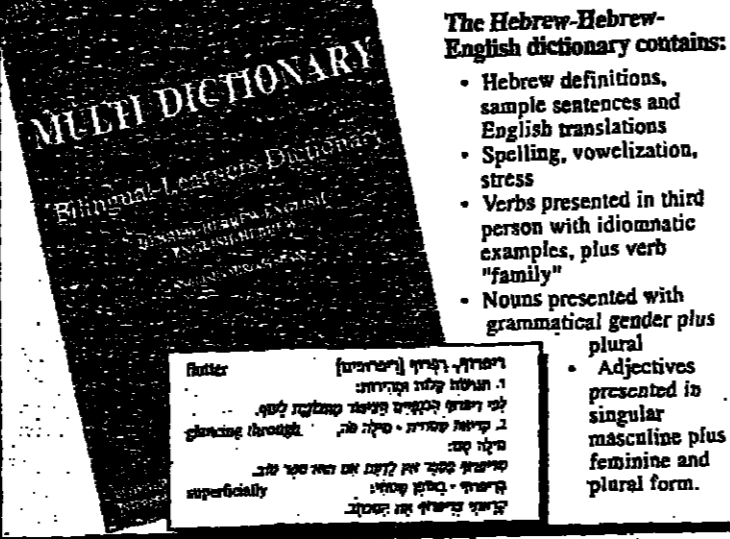
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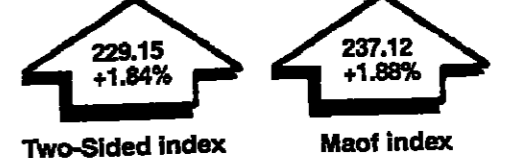




TASE jumps for fifth day in a row

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARES, continuing their run today to a three-year high, jumped for a fifth day as the Finance Ministry reported that party tax-exempt savings funds saw net deposits from investors in December after withdrawals in November and October.

London shares weaken

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares ended mostly weaker yesterday, dragged down by falling bonds, a weaker performance on Wall Street and a call for higher interest rates from the Bank of England's deputy governor.

PARIS - Shares closed easier in line with Wall Street but remained above the 2,300 level after having pushed the CAC-40 index to a fresh year high at 2,315.25.

Dow hits record 6,600

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 6,600 for the first time as stocks rallied back yesterday from steep losses spurred by the worsening interest rate backdrop in the bond market.

CRASHES

(Continued from Page 1) The youth's age, the fact that he worked in the market, had no license and needed his employer's keys and therefore his permission to use the car, pointed to an accident. But the employer, who also was investigated, denied that he gave permission to use the car.

SWISS

(Continued from Page 1) assets sent to Switzerland by Jews attempting to escape the Nazis. The cabinet said it wanted dormant bank accounts totalling some SF 40m. (\$29.5m.) to be "put to a proper use."

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table with multiple columns: Name, Price, Change, Volume, % Change. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, and MORNING.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Name, Price, Change. Lists various international stocks and their performance.

Key Representative Rates: US Dollar NIS 3.2440 -0.10%, Sterling NIS 5.4821 +0.00%, Mark NIS 2.0766 +0.21%

INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes: DJ Industrial, NYSE Composite, NASDAQ Composite, etc.

Other stock market indexes: FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, DAX-30, etc.

Israeli stocks in US

Table listing Israeli stocks traded in the US market, including NYSE/AMEX, NASDAQ, and OTC.

FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA

Table with columns: Country, Index, Change. Lists financial data for various countries.

Commstock Trading Ltd. logo and contact information.

US COMMODITIES

Table listing US commodity prices and changes.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table listing London commodity prices and changes.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table listing spot market metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table listing New York metal futures prices.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'Nazi gold' and 'Carbor'.

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Tottenham has a frame-like opportunity to avenge its third-round English F.A. Cup defeat at Manchester United when Alex Ferguson's men visit White Hart Lane for a Premier League match on Sunday. But even a convincing victory over the F.A. Cup holders and league champions will do nothing to disguise the fact that, to all intents and purposes, Tottenham's season ended when the referee blew the final whistle on their 2-0 defeat at Old Trafford on Sunday.

# Spurs left to pick up crumbs again

in "Tottenham-style" players such as Dennis Bergkamp and Patrick Vieira and are high in the table after seemingly ditching their old pragmatic approach under new French coach Arsene Wenger for a much more expansive style which had been the hallmark of Tottenham for decades. But the feeling of under-achievement is nothing new for Tottenham's long-suffering fans who seem to be involved in a season of transition every season.

Chairman Alan Sugar, the man Venables brought in to save Tottenham from bankruptcy in 1991 and who sacked Venables two years later, said earlier this season that Tottenham would be champions in three years' time. But Sugar, one of the richest men in Britain and Francis, his manager, have failed to sign the top-class players needed for an assault on the title, which Tottenham last won in 1961 when they became the first English club this century to win the Cup and League double.

Although Tottenham recently signed defender John Scales for £2.6 million from Liverpool and spent £2m on 20-year-old striker Steffen Iversen from Rosenborg, its recent acquisitions have not been in the same class as, for example, Gary Lineker, Paul Gascoigne, Jürgen Klinsmann or Ossie Ardiles. Scales was in the reserves at Liverpool, while Ruel Fox and Andy Sinton were both out of favor at Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday before moving to White Hart Lane.

Manchester United and Tottenham have for decades been regarded as the glamor clubs of English soccer. Tottenham was the first English side to win a European trophy when it lifted the Cup Winners' Cup in 1963. United became England's first European champions with their famous victory over Benfica five years later. Both have won the double and they are the two most successful clubs in the 126-year history of the F.A. Cup with United having won the trophy nine times and Tottenham eight.

# Niekro elected to Hall; Sutton, Perez fall short

NEW YORK (AP) - Just like one of the knuckleball pitches, Phil Niekro tumbled into the Hall of Fame, who missed on his first try, he made it Monday. The 43-year-old knuckleballer to win 300 games, he was the lone player elected.

percent in his first year of eligibility in 1993, followed by 60 percent in 1994 and 62.1 percent in 1995. Billy Williams was the last player who had to wait as long as Niekro to make it the Hall. The former Chicago Cubs star was elected on his sixth try in 1987. Niekro had a 3.35 ERA in 24 seasons. He pitched two seasons in Milwaukee, moved with the team to Atlanta from 1966-1983, and later pitched for the New York Yankees, Cleveland and Toronto. He made a final, farewell appearance for Atlanta in 1987.

the award just three times. He had a total of three 20-win seasons. Niekro ranks fifth on the career list of losses and never won a post-season game. Then again, the Braves only made it to the playoffs twice during his tenure. After retiring as a player, Niekro managed and coached in the Braves organization. He is about to start his fourth season managing the women's Silver Bullets team. Sutton missed the Hall on his fourth try. He was 324-256 with a 3.26 ERA in 23 seasons, most of them with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Like Niekro, Sutton never won a Cy Young and had only one 20-win season.



THUMBS UP - Magic Johnson smiles for the media after arriving in Jakarta to play a number of exhibition matches. (Reuters)

# Amid health ministry warnings, Magic Johnson arrives in Indonesia

JAKARTA (AP) - Magic Johnson arrived yesterday in Indonesia after the country's health minister said the public had to be warned that the former NBA star could spread the virus that causes AIDS. Johnson's touring all-star team is scheduled to play games today and tomorrow to raise money for AIDS campaigns in Indonesia, where the World Health Organization says some 50,000 people are infected with the virus.

Minister Suyudi denied that claim Monday and said the government welcomed Johnson's visit this week. "But the society should get information on the spread of HIV so that this HIV-positive athlete will not spread the disease," Suyudi said. Indonesia has no policy against admitting HIV-positive visitors, but officials can deny a visa to anyone carrying a contagious disease. Johnson, 38, first retired from the Los Angeles Lakers just before the 1991-92 season after learning he had tested positive for the virus.

He decided to make a comeback before the 1992-93 season but quit again during the exhibition season after several players expressed concerns about playing with him. After considering a comeback on several occasions, Johnson finally returned last January. He played in 32 games, helping the Lakers to a 53-29 record. He retired for good after the playoffs. Johnson is a three-time NBA most valuable player who led the Lakers to five league championships during the 1980s.

# Seles out of Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AP) - Defending women's singles champion Monica Seles has joined a growing list of absentees from the upcoming Australian Open tennis championships. Seles, who has a 28-0 record in Australia and has won the Australian Open four times, advised tournament director Paul McNamee yesterday that a broken finger will prevent her from playing Down Under.

after being stabbed during a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, in 1993. She returned to win the Australian title last year. Her absence will be a considerable blow for Open organizers as it follows the decision of fellow major drawcard Andre Agassi to bypass the event to take a break before starting his planned grueling 1997 playing schedule.

ChicAGO (AP) - Scottie Pippen scored 24 points and Michael Jordan 23 as the Chicago Bulls averaged a November loss to Utah by beating the Jazz 102-89 Monday night. Dennis Rodman added 16 rebounds, and Toni Kukoc and Steve Kerr had strong performances off the bench for the Bulls, who are 12-1 overall and 9-0 at home since December 11. Chicago's 29-4 record is the NBA's best.

Pippen, Jordan lead Bulls past Jazz. The Bulls started the season with 12 consecutive victories before losing 105-100 at Utah. But as was the case in 1995-96 - when payback was a huge part of the Bulls' league-record 72-win season - Chicago got revenge. Trail Blazers 88, Lakers 84. Vincent Anderson, struggling through a miserable offensive game, scored host Portland's final eight points as the Trail Blazers won their fifth straight and ended the Lakers' six-game winning streak.

which is 6-7 since opening the season 17-2. The Bulls started the season with 12 consecutive victories before losing 105-100 at Utah. But as was the case in 1995-96 - when payback was a huge part of the Bulls' league-record 72-win season - Chicago got revenge. Trail Blazers 88, Lakers 84. Vincent Anderson, struggling through a miserable offensive game, scored host Portland's final eight points as the Trail Blazers won their fifth straight and ended the Lakers' six-game winning streak.

Seles, a left-hander who hits with two hands off both sides, broke her right ring finger in two places while playing an exhibition in Slovakia last month. She damaged the finger tip and the knuckle. The injury forced Yugoslav-born Seles to last week withdraw from the Sydney International, which is being played at White City. Seles won the Australian Open in 1991, 1992 and 1993 before missing the event the next two years.

# Rangers extend home unbeaten streak

NEW YORK (AP) - Goaltender Rick Richter extended his unbeaten streak to 16 games and the New York Rangers their home unbeaten streak to seven with a 2-2 tie against the Colorado Avalanche on Monday night. After giving up two power-play goals to the Avalanche on their first five shots, Richter stopped the next 33 in a brilliant goalkeeping battle with Colorado's Patrick Roy. Richter stopped 18 alone in the third period when Colorado had three of its eight power-play chances.

Lightning 4, Senators 3. Defenseman Bill Houlder scored his first goal of the season as Tampa Bay won on the road. Alexander Selivanov, Daymond Langkow and Shawn Burr also scored for Tampa Bay, which withstood a Senators' rally after taking a 4-1 lead on Houlder's goal early in the third period. Alexei Yashin, Lance Pitlick and Randy Cunneyworth scored for Ottawa.

Lightning. Canadiens 5, Whalers 4. Vincent Damphousse scored three goals for host Montreal, including the game-winner with 3.4 seconds left in regulation. Only games scheduled.

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Hornets 109, Warriors 101. Glen Rice scored a season-high 39 points and Anthony Mason added 27 points and 18 rebounds as Charlotte notched a road victory. Viade Divac had 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Hornets, who made 13 of 14 free throws down the stretch and finished 36-of-40 at the foul line. Latrell Sprewell had 26 points and seven assists for the Warriors. Joe Smith added 23 points and Mark Price had 22. Only games scheduled.

# Jailed hockey coach fears for life after TV remarks

CALGARY (AP) - The former junior hockey coach doing jail time for sexually abusing two players says his life is in danger because of comments by CBC commentator Don Cherry. Graham James, in a telephone call to the Calgary Sun, said he is living in fear in after Cherry's comments Saturday night during his Coach's Corner segment of Hockey Night in Canada.

Lightning 4, Senators 3. Defenseman Bill Houlder scored his first goal of the season as Tampa Bay won on the road. Alexander Selivanov, Daymond Langkow and Shawn Burr also scored for Tampa Bay, which withstood a Senators' rally after taking a 4-1 lead on Houlder's goal early in the third period. Alexei Yashin, Lance Pitlick and Randy Cunneyworth scored for Ottawa. Rick Tabaracci, making his 19th start in Tampa Bay's last 20 games, stopped 20 shots for the

Lightning. Canadiens 5, Whalers 4. Vincent Damphousse scored three goals for host Montreal, including the game-winner with 3.4 seconds left in regulation. Only games scheduled.

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Vertical text on the left margin: "dier lacts iron tting"

Vertical text on the far left margin: "BZAZZ"

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

TOMORROW evening the Red Sea International Music Festival opens with a gala concert in Akaba, featuring Valery Gergiev and his orchestra...



Valery Gergiev conducts the Kirov (Marinsky) Theater orchestra and chorus in Akaba tomorrow.

slangy and mythic, the picture works through carefully choreographed disorientation. At different points throughout the almost three-hour-long movie...

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

SAXOPHONIST Shlomo Goldenberg and his Little Big Band join up with soul singer Elisheva Bat-Israël from Dimona for a one-time-only evening they call The Soul of Jazz...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★ BREAKING THE WAVES - Danish director Lars Von Trier's English-language film provides one of the more powerful shocks in recent cinematic memory.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

TELEVISION

- MIDDLE EAST TV
7:00 Quantum Shopping 8:00 TV Shop
14:00 The 700 Club 15:00 Sandokan
15:25 Deacy Harvest - feature film
16:55 Family Challenge 17:40 Family Matters

- ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Four Seasons 19:00 News
HEBREW PROGRAMS
18:30 News 19:00 Arena 19:30 News
20:00 News 20:45 Conference Call - talk show

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with clues in DOWN and ACROSS sections.

SOLUTIONS

Grid showing solutions for the cryptic crossword puzzle.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle grid with clues in ACROSS and DOWN sections.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

General assistance section listing emergency pharmacies, duty hospitals, police, fire, and first aid services.

MIDDLE EAST TV

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ARABIC PROGRAMS

- 18:30 Four Seasons 19:00 News
HEBREW PROGRAMS
18:30 News 19:00 Arena 19:30 News
20:00 News 20:45 Conference Call - talk show

CHILDREN

- 6:30 Cartoons 9:00 Coure Marco 9:30
The Center of Things (pt) 9:45 Pink Panther Show 10:05 The Center of Things

CINEMA

Cinema listings section listing movies and showtimes at various theaters such as Nesson Ziona, G.A.L., and Karmiel.

THE CENTER OF THINGS

Welcomed Freshmen 17:05 Little University 17:30
Dakar 1997 Rally (pt) 18:30
Adventure Sports 14:00 Motor racing:
Tour from the Canary Islands 15:00

SECOND SHOWING

22:00 Savages (1973) - an offbeat look
at society by Merchant-Ivory. A naked
group of savages discovers a deserted
paradise at the edge of the forest and
takes it over. They undergo a process
at the end of which they are 'civilized.'

PRIME SPORTS

8:00 Soccer: Asian Club
Championships 8:30 Golf: US PGA
9:30 Asian Soccer Show 10:30 Auto
Racing: Race of Champions, Spain

DISCOVERY

6:00 Open University - Motherhood on
Hold; Evolution; Sociological
Imagination; Collective Behavior

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 The Seina Scott Show 7:00 The
Ticket 7:30 NBC Morning News 8:00
Today 10:00 Wall Street Morning
Reports 11:00 European Market Watch

STAR PLUS

8:00 Ciao Italia 9:30 Elit 7:00 Kato
and Allie 7:30 Oprah Winfrey 9:30
Chicago Hope 9:30 Santa Barbara

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion 18:00 Bodies in
Motion 18:30 Dakar 1997 Rally - day 4
rundup 17:00 NFL football 18:30
National League Volleyball

EUROSPORT

9:30 Dakar 1997 Rally (pt) 10:00 Ski

Jumping: World Cup, Germany (pt)

11:00 Soccer: Asian Cup (pt) 12:30
Dakar 1997 Rally (pt) 13:00
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# Opposition furious at PM's withdrawal of IBA budget from Knesset Finance C'ttee

OPPOSITION MKs were up in arms yesterday over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to withdraw the Israel Broadcasting Authority budget from the Knesset Finance Committee.

Two Meretz MKs, Amnon Rubinstein and Haim Oron, said they would petition the High Court of Justice against the decision.

Netanyahu withdrew the budget following a procedural appeal against it by two members of the IBA plenum, in accordance with a legal opinion from his ministry's legal advisor, Shimon Stein. However, opposition MKs charged that the real reason for the withdrawal was due to religious MKs' objections to *The Cameri Quintet* satire program and comedian Gil Kopatch.

The appeal, which was filed on January 5 by Likud activist Gil Samsonov and Hedva Spiegel, was based solely on the manner in which the plenum approved a NIS 20.8 million budget cut. According to the appeal, the cut was approved by a telephone sur-

**EVELYN GORDON**

vey of the members rather than at a formal meeting, and the appellants' requests for detailed material on the cut before the "vote" were denied. This is not the proper way for such a decision to be made, the two said, and they therefore demanded that the budget be returned to the IBA plenum for a proper discussion.

Stein, after reviewing the appeal, said the proper course was to accede to their request, withdraw the budget from the Finance Committee and return it to the IBA. Netanyahu therefore did so. Opposition MKs, however, were furious.

Avraham Shohat (Labor) charged that only Finance Minister Dan Meridor had the right to withdraw a budget.

"The state of Israel has a coalition which consists of [director-general of the Prime Minister's Office] Avidgor Lieberman and the haredi parties," he said, adding that the decision left the IBA operating without a budget, in violation of the law.

However, Finance Committee legal advisor Anna Schneider said Netanyahu did have the right to withdraw the budget, since as the minister in charge of the IBA, it was his job to decide on the Samsonov-Spiegel appeal. She had listed this as a possible option in a legal opinion submitted to the committee even before Netanyahu's letter arrived.

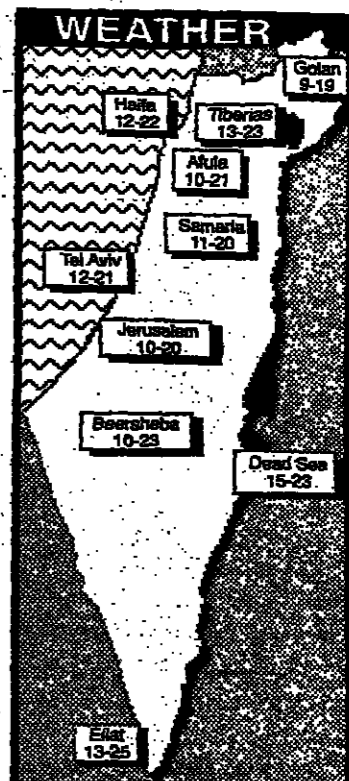
Oron charged that Netanyahu had simply seized on the appeal as an excuse to withdraw the budget, once it became clear to him that there was a majority in the committee for approving it.

"Everything is kosher when it comes to gagging people and making life difficult for the IBA," he said.

Ophir Pines (Labor) noted that this is the only 1997 budget which has still not been approved. He said he had filed a complaint with the Civil Service Commission against what he termed Lieberman's attempts to pressure coalition MKs into opposing the budget.



Dancers Galina Panov and Bill Luther prepare for their performance of 'The Lovers' in Jerusalem yesterday. (Isaac Harari)



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slight rise in temperature.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

City	Low	High	Weather
Amsterdam	10	14	cloudy
Berlin	8	12	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	22	rain
Calcutta	22	28	rain
Chicago	11	15	cloudy
Copenhagen	5	8	cloudy
Hamburg	8	12	cloudy
Helsinki	4	7	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	22	clear
Jakarta	24	28	clear
London	8	12	cloudy
Los Angeles	13	18	clear
Madrid	7	11	cloudy
Moscow	10	14	cloudy
New York	10	14	cloudy
Paris	8	12	cloudy
Rome	10	14	cloudy
Sydney	18	22	clear
Tokyo	10	14	cloudy
Warsaw	8	12	cloudy
Zurich	8	12	cloudy

## Supreme Court justice refuses to act against 'The Cameri Quintet' TV show

**EVELYN GORDON**

SUPREME Court Justice Theodor Or refused to issue an interim injunction yesterday against the screening of *The Cameri Quintet* on Channel 1.

Or was ruling on a request filed by Gabi Abutbul, a Shas representative on the Israel Broadcasting Authority's plenum. Abutbul had asked the court to either prohibit the broadcasts entirely or "moderate their crudity," until the plenum holds a discussion on the program in two weeks.

In his decision, Or wrote that even if parts of the program passed the bounds of good taste in the eyes of part of the public, this did not justify such a "far-reaching infringement on freedom of expression" as an injunction. This is especially so given the fact that the upcoming programs, like previous ones, will be scrutinized by various IBA officials, and that the IBA

plenum is to discuss the matter in another two weeks, he said.

Afterwards, Abutbul said he still had high hopes for the plenum discussion.

"I am certain there will be a majority [in the plenum] for moderating all these crude outbursts," said Abutbul. "There are things that are not appropriate for a public broadcast." The petition argued that the program frequently trampled on religious sensibilities, in violation of the Broadcasting Authority Law. This law states that programs offensive to large segments of the public cannot be aired.

The petition also charged that IBA director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum had promised the plenum in September to personally view each *Cameri Quintet* program beforehand and moderate it where necessary, but had not done so.

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## Hammer holds up TV show on homosexuality

**ESTHER HECHT**

EDUCATION Minister Zevulun Hammer has held up the broadcast of a program on homosexuality prepared for Educational TV due to his world view, the minister's media adviser told the Knesset Status of Women Committee yesterday. The committee convened to discuss the minister's legal authority to interfere with the broadcasting of a specific program.

The program was scheduled to have been aired on October 10, 1996, as part of a weekly series for youngsters entitled *Open Cards*. In the series, adolescents and young adults speak frankly to each other about their concerns, including sex, alcohol and drug abuse, and becoming religiously observant. The minister postponed the program to November 21, but on November 20 announced he was postponing it again so he could examine it.

Media adviser Ephraim Lapid argued that Educational TV, a state communications channel, is under the minister's jurisdiction. He also presented Hammer's reasons for delaying the broadcast.

One reason was that showing a homosexual family conveys a message that is not part of the general consensus and should

not be presented in an educational context, Lapid said. Hammer also believes he must reconsider a program that is so emotionally laden and is about a subject with which part of society feels uncomfortable, Lapid continued.

The media adviser assured the committee that Hammer's decision to hold up the program was not political, but derived from his personal world view. Lapid could not tell the committee when the minister would conclude his examination of the program.

Educational TV head Ahuva Feinmesser told the committee she and other professionals had vetted the program for broadcast prior to Hammer's decision.

Aharon Pollak, a Tel Aviv lawyer who represents the Israel Bar Association in matters of education, said the minister had overstepped his jurisdiction. Hammer's responsibility for Educational TV pertains to administrative matters only, and it is illegal for him to substitute his own judgment for the judgment of professionals in the ministry, except in the most extreme circumstances, he said.

Psychologist Jerry Levinson,

who for three years ran a counseling program for homosexual and lesbian youngsters, spoke about the harm done to young people by withholding the information in the program from them. "I've had hundreds of calls and letters from youngsters about their fears and the atmosphere of persecution, exacerbated by pronouncements by public figures like the president," he said. "Correct information is crucial for them."

He cited a recent Canadian study which found that homosexuals and lesbians account for 70 percent of suicide attempts among young people.

Hava Bar-On, who prepared a booklet on homosexuality for the Education Ministry to guide teachers and counselors in dealing with the subject, said the educators' goal was to provide information and counteract myths, and in particular to help youngsters in distress.

MK Yael Dayan, who chaired the meeting, asked Lapid to inform the committee when the minister's examination of the program would begin, when it would be completed, and what it will include. She also recommended that the minister set a new date for airing the program, and keep to it.

## No drought yet - officially

**DAVID RUDGE**

HYDROLOGICAL experts are to meet next Sunday to formulate plans to manage the country's dwindling water resources in the coming year in view of what looks like a winter drought.

The meeting had been scheduled to take place last month, but was twice deferred because of the dearth of rainfall so far this winter.

The experts will make recommendations to the water commissioner and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who are primarily responsible for deciding whether or not to declare a drought situation.

The decision itself is likely to be deferred for a few more weeks in the hope that the rains will still come and compensate for the dearth of precipitation to date.

Rainfall so far has been well below average for this time of year to the detriment of farmers, who already have lost millions of shekels worth of field crops because seeds have dried up in the soil.

Lake Kinneret is also showing signs of the unofficial drought, with the level of water continuing to drop instead of rising as it would in a normal winter.

Mekorot officials said the water level is 70 centimeters below that which it stood at this time last year and only 1.40 meters from the "red line."

The red line is the point below which experts have decreed the level of water cannot drop because it would cause irreparable damage to the lake's ecosystem and water quality.

Mekorot officials said that in the event of insufficient rain this winter, pumping from Lake Kinneret into the National Water Carrier would have to be greatly reduced and other sources used instead.

This would mean increasing pumping from the country's two main underground reservoirs, Yarkon Tanimim and the coastal aquifer - both of which are still relatively replete.

According to the officials, there would be sufficient reserves from these sources to meet the country's water requirements in the coming year. The problem, however, would arise in subsequent years if the underground reservoirs become depleted.

The Agriculture Ministry is already recommending measures to reduce water consumption, including the use of decorative plants which require little watering and efficient systems for irrigating public parks and private gardens. There are also suggestions for campaigns to make the public more aware of the need to conserve water.

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**7 arrested in Acre drug raid**

SEVEN suspected drug dealers from Acre's Old City were arrested during a police raid early yesterday morning. The operation, in which around 50 policemen and detectives took part, followed months of work and evidence-gathering by an undercover agent.

Those arrested are suspected of selling drugs to the undercover agent. The suspects were brought before the Acre Magistrate's Court yesterday and remanded pending further inquiries. *David Rudge*

**61 income tax workers charged with misusing data**

DISCIPLINARY charges have been filed against 61 income tax employees in the last three years for making illegal use of data in the Income Tax Commission's computers. Treasury representatives told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday. This is out of 131 employees investigated on suspicion of such abuse. *Evelyn Gordon*

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